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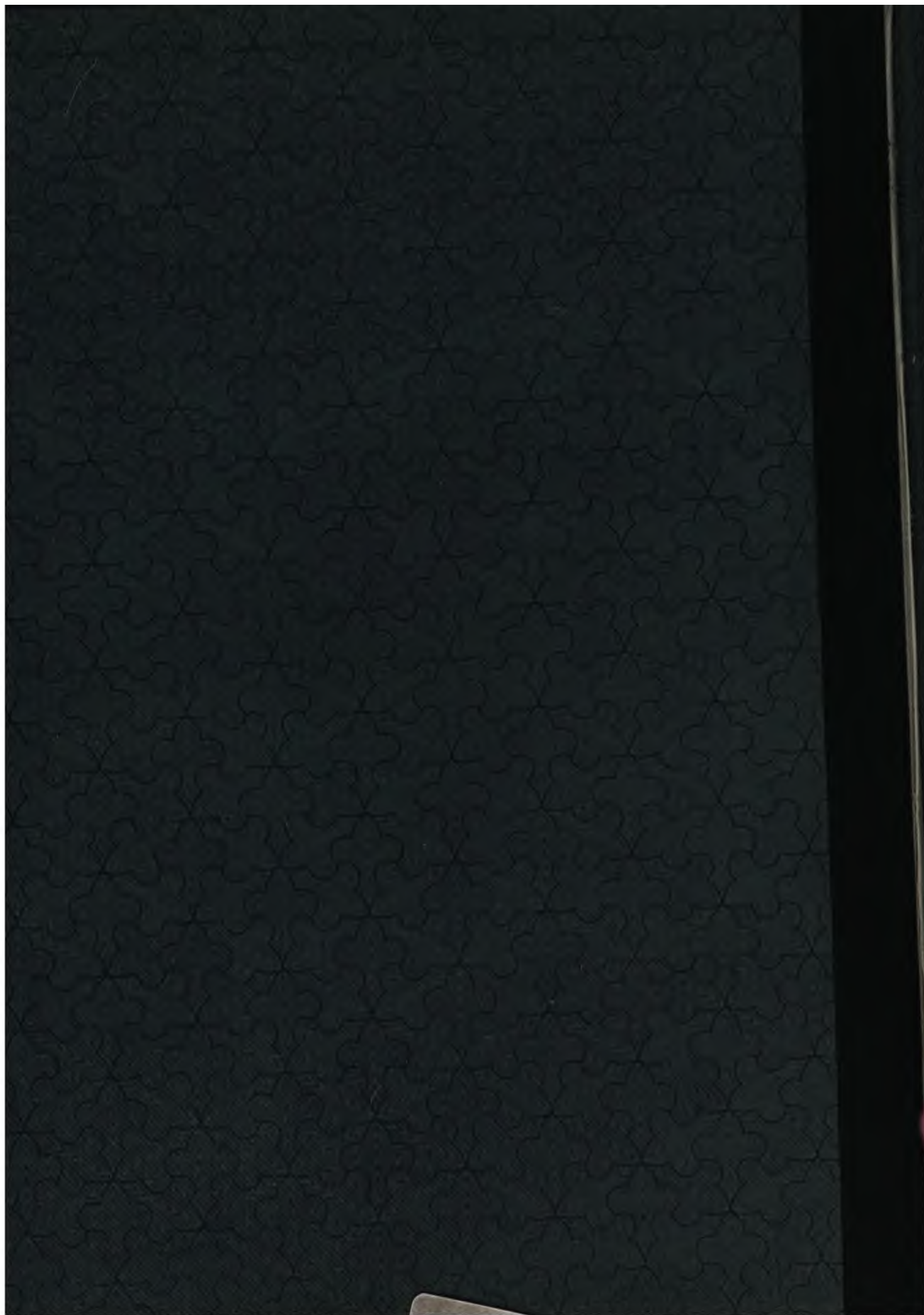
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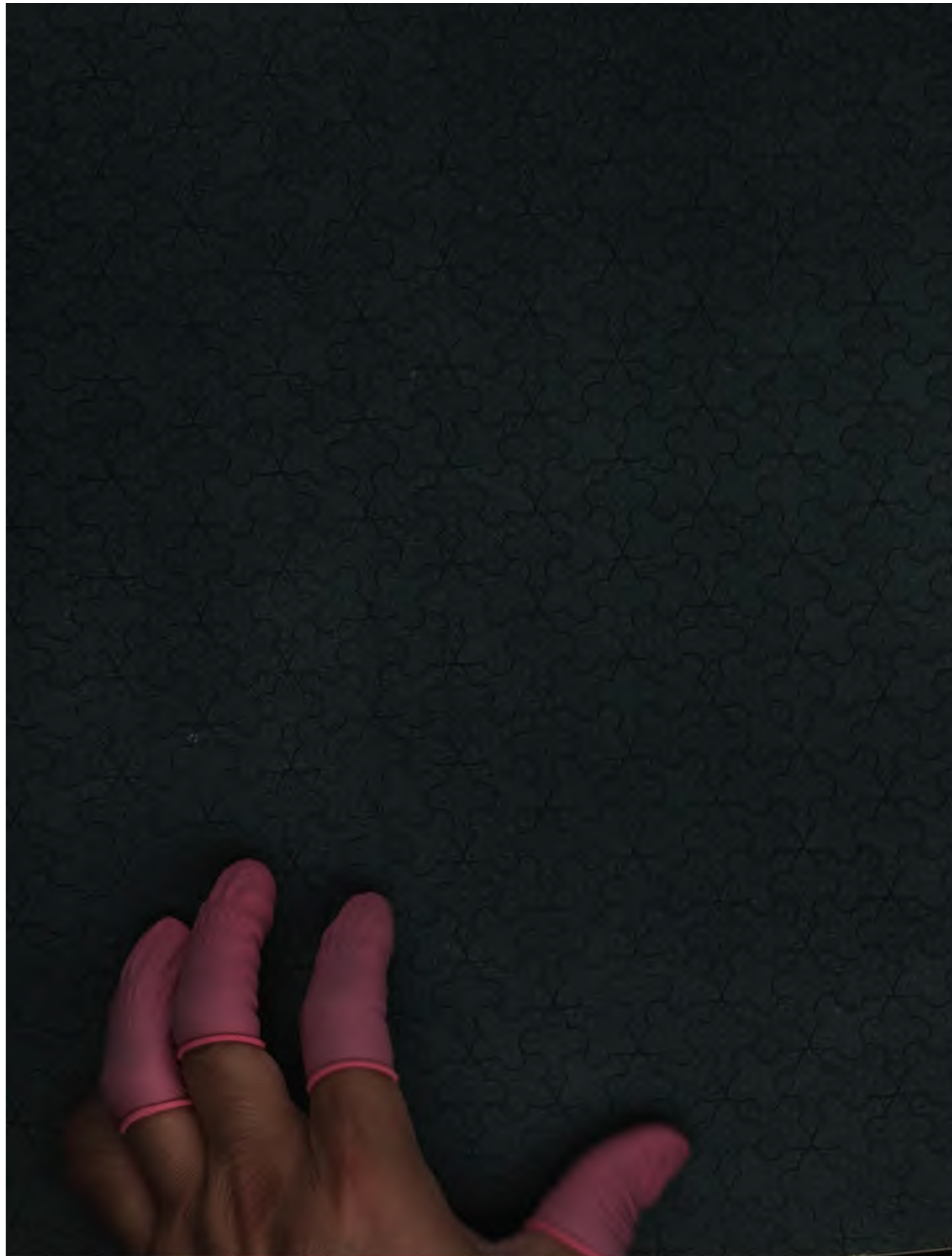
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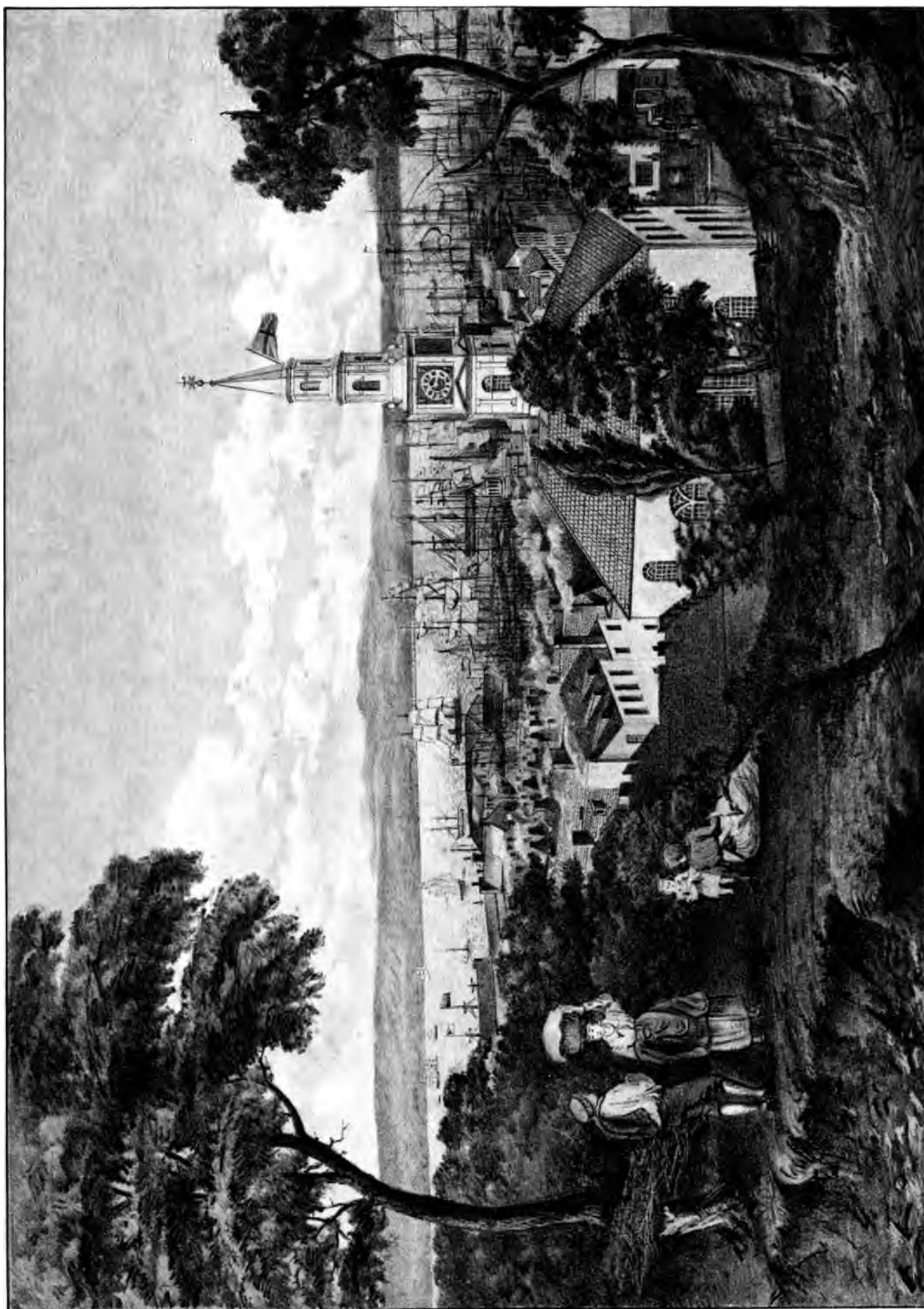
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VIEWS and
Reminiscences
OF
OLD GREENOCK









GREENOCK IN 1812.

FROM A PAINTING BY SOLOMON.

By permission of A. Robertson, Esq., Lee Pen House, Innerleithen.



GREENOCK IN 1812.

FROM A PAINTING BY SOLOMON.

By permission of H. Robertson Esq., Lee Pen House, Inverleith.

Views &

Reminiscences

OF

Old Greenock.



GREENOCK:— JAMES MCKELVIE & SONS,
MDCCCXCI.

Views and Reminiscences of Old Greenock.



PUBLISHERS OF "VIEWS AND REMINISCENCES OF OLD GREENOCK," in issuing a volume that aims at recalling portions of the town that have passed away, have reason to believe they are appealing to a widespread feeling of local patriotism that will secure an adequate appreciation of the work. They are, indeed, pleased to state that as regards its purport such appreciation is already assured, as leading citizens who have been consulted have warmly signified approval. While, however, grateful that the general idea of the undertaking is one that meets with commendation, they are conscious that everything depends upon execution; and that success falls to be determined by the intrinsic qualities of the work itself. On this point they have simply to add that they have availed themselves of the best means at their disposal to produce a memorial volume that would not only meet with acceptance now, but be regarded by Greenockians to come as a treasured window, opening out on scenes and glimpses of the local past. The *raison d'être* of the enterprise lies in the numerous removals consequent on town improvements. Few places in Scotland have undergone such a radical transformation as has Greenock in recent years. With an ear attuned to the pleadings of social and sanitary reform, she has, earlier than most towns, widened her streets, renewed her buildings, and arrayed herself in an attire of cleanliness that is in pleasing contrast with her insanitary past. In an economic sense the cost has been considerable, but the community have their reward in the knowledge that the town which was once notorious for its high death-rate is now recognised as one of the healthiest in the kingdom. If, however, Greenock can be congratulated on her improved sanitary and architectural condition, the change has not been effected without some little shock to public feeling caused by the removal of familiar and time-honoured structures that had served the purposes of many generations. It is true that many of these consisted of old "rookeries" or dilapidated tenements that had become a nuisance to modern civilisation; but it cannot be forgotten that in earlier times some of them were the honoured abodes of prominent citizens, and, as such, were not without interest to the lovers of the antique. Of the demolished buildings, some were object lessons in human progress, while others were invaluable as centres of gracious thoughts and tender memories. Among those showing the evolutionary links connecting the present with the past, were the old GREENOCK MANSIONHOUSE, the old GREENOCK PRISON, and the old TOWN OFFICES, while deeper feeling was stirred by such priceless possessions as the house in William Street where James Watt was born, and that in Charles Street in which the Mary of the "To Mary in Heaven" breathed her last. The MANSIONHOUSE is understood to have witnessed from its commanding position the ebb and flow of Greenock life for centuries; the house consecrated by the birth of Watt was naturally pregnant with ideas of steam, and the mighty revolution it has accomplished; while the local habitations sacred to the memory of Burns and Highland Mary formed centres of tenderest recollections of national as well as local significance. The object of the present work is to rescue, as far as possible, such old Greenock landmarks from oblivion; to set, as it were, the once familiar places on the canvas, to recall notable persons and events, and, generally speaking, to give the citizen of to-day, who knows Greenock as it is, some idea of Greenock as it was. It is not forgotten that Greenock has her historians in Mr. Daniel Weir, Mr. Dugald Campbell, and Mr. George Williamson; but it may be emphasised that whereas their work consists almost entirely of letterpress, the publishers of the present volume rely more upon the illuminating power of art. The illustrations, which have been carefully lithographed in the publishers' premises, are from drawings by Mr. P. Downie, artist, Paisley, formerly of Greenock, and from photographs and other pictures. For the letterpress, the publishers are indebted to Mr. A. Williamson, late of Greenock, and now of Edinburgh, who has,

with much care, gathered together and put in literary form the available information bearing on the various pictures. "VIEWS AND REMINISCENCES OF OLD GREENOCK," though perhaps finding little favour with the cold, calculating intellect, will appeal to all who take a delight in the play of fancy, and love to linger in the realms of the retrospective. "It is 'curious,'" says an eminent living writer, "that the saddest and most touching of human thoughts, 'when we run it up to its simplest form, is of so homely a thing as a material object, existing in a 'certain space and then removed from that space to another. That is the essential idea of 'Gone.' " It is also this idea of "Gone" that has produced the present work; and while a pensive atmosphere may more or less intrude itself throughout its pages, they are certain to call forth pleasurable moods, in which subtle links of relationship between the old and the new reveal themselves, suggesting thoughts that mellow the outlook, and touching the fibre of memory to gentler and more tolerant issues. To-day, in some quarters, sentiment is regarded somewhat askance, but most assuredly of this commodity the busy, struggling world has not overmuch. "History storms on with siege and battle and political crisis, but poetry runs alongside, supplementing history, smoothing its austerities, and filling up its chasms and interstices with music." That "VIEWS AND REMINISCENCES OF OLD GREENOCK," with its fading history and vanishing past, may also distil somewhat of the music of humanity, and yield delight, is the ardent wish of the publishers.

In concluding their prefatorial remarks, the publishers beg to express their obligations to several Greenock gentlemen who have kindly furnished them with information, and given the loan of pictures requisite to the production of the work. The recently-published volumes of Mr. George Williamson have been laid under tribute; and there is indebtedness to Mr. John Scott, C.B.; ex-Provost Campbell; ex-Bailie W. B. Paul; Mr. Alex. P. Lyle; Mr. James Agnew; Mr. Archibald Campbell; Captain William Orr; Mr. James B. Morison, the devoted secretary of the Greenock Burns Club; and others, each and all of whom have rendered excellent and willing service.

GREENOCK, *April*, 1891.

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I.

Greenock in 1812.

IN the frontispiece, and the picture herewith, we have two representations of Greenock, one from the land and the other from the river, from paintings executed about the same date, and the accompanying letterpress covers both views. The contrast between the Greenock of 79 years ago and that of to-day is marked indeed. Since 1801 it has advanced from a place of comparative unimportance to a town and seaport of no small significance. The lapse of time is striking, if we remember that a survivor, born about the date of the picture, would now be about a decade in advance of the allotted span. The retrogression or progress of a community is to be read in its diminishing or advancing numbers. The following table shows the population of Greenock in 1801 and onwards, in the intervening decennial periods, till 1881, and is interesting as recording a continuous growth:—

POPULATION OF GREENOCK.

1801,	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	17,458
1811,	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	19,042
1821,	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	22,088
1831,	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	27,571
1841,	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	36,986
1851,	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	37,436
1861,	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	43,894
1871,	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	59,794
1881,	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	68,897

If the decade now drawing to a close had witnessed the proportion of growth that characterised the decennial period of 1871-81, the Census just about due would show a population of about 78,000. The protracted trade depression of recent years has, however, checked the natural increase; and while we must wait for a little to ascertain the exact figures, it is believed that they will show little addition to the population of ten years ago. In 1811, Greenock was still without gas, an advantage first enjoyed by the citizens seventeen years later. The town was well served for many years by the original works, situated in the Glebe; but the growth of the community and its progress in sanitation called for the new and extensive works at Inchgreen, which were opened in 1873. The harbour accommodation at Greenock in 1811 was exceedingly limited as compared with the splendid shipping facilities offered by the port to-day. Greenock may be said to have possessed no harbour works until 1710, when, as the result of the enterprise of the then inhabitants, the East and West Harbours, forming an amphitheatre inclosing the Mid Quay at the base, had sprung into existence. The citizens of the time had bound themselves to an assessment of one shilling and fourpence on every sack of malt brewed into ale within the limits of the town, the revenue therefrom to be applied to the building and equipping of harbours. In 1792 the whole harbour dues amounted to just a little over £800, a mere bagatelle as compared with the harbour revenues of to-day. The revenue has of late years somewhat declined, but, as marking the contrast between the earlier and the later Greenock Harbour systems, it may be here stated that the average revenue of the quinquennial period embracing 1882-86 was £66,884 6s. 2d. Writing on this subject in 1829, Weir, the first historian of Greenock, says:—"Of late years, the Harbours may be said to have been entirely rebuilt, no vestiges of the old being seen all around; and, certainly, their present complete state reflects great credit on those who superintended these splendid works. The first Act of Parliament for regulating the affairs of the Harbours was obtained in 1773; another Act was obtained in 1789; a third Act in 1801; a fourth in 1803; a fifth in 1810; and a sixth Act in 1817." The original Harbour Works as completed in 1710, at a cost of something under £6,000, though appearing insignificant to the citizens of to-day, were considered formidable at the time, and were recognised as the greatest of the kind in Scotland. Since then the Harbour accommodation and the trade of the port have developed hand in hand; and the extent of this progress may be read in the following statements. What is known as the New Graving Dock was completed in 1824 at a cost of £20,000; the Victoria Harbour was opened in 1850; the Albert Harbour was ready for traffic in 1867; the Garvel Graving Dock

was finished in 1873 ; and the first vessel was floated into the magnificent James Watt Dock on the 5th August, 1886. Our staple industries of shipbuilding and sugar refining had early established themselves in Greenock. Weir, writing in 1829, says :—"Shipbuilding from an early period has "been carried on with great success, but previous to the breaking out of the American war, almost "all the vessels belonging to the Clyde were built in America." The tables have now been completely turned on the Americans, whose economic policy has almost silenced their shipbuilding industry ; while that of the various marine centres throughout the United Kingdom goes forward by leaps and bounds. The first sugarhouse in Greenock was built in 1765 ; and in 1829 there were no fewer than seven sugar refineries at work. The out-turn, however, from the refineries at that time, with their slow-going methods, was insignificant as compared with that of to-day. In 1889, the quantity of sugar turned out from our Greenock Refineries was 240,000 tons. The British Refiners continue to be harassed by the operation of foreign bounties, which flood our markets with cheap sugar, but they hold their own manfully against the artificial methods of the foreign Refiner. In the earlier years of the century, Greenock was in possession of industries which have perished. These included straw-hat-making, the manufacture of silk and felt hats, with bottle and flint glass works and others. These works afforded considerable employment, and their removal is to be regretted. The town has had in recent years its commercial ups and downs ; but, considering its unrivalled situation, its magnificent harbours, its numerous railway connections, and its splendid water supplies, there is every reason to believe that an early future will see it crowned with an increasing prosperity.

NOTE.—Although this picture is dated 1825, it is understood to have been painted about the same time as the frontispiece, namely, 1812.



JAMES W. GILPIN & SONS, LITH.

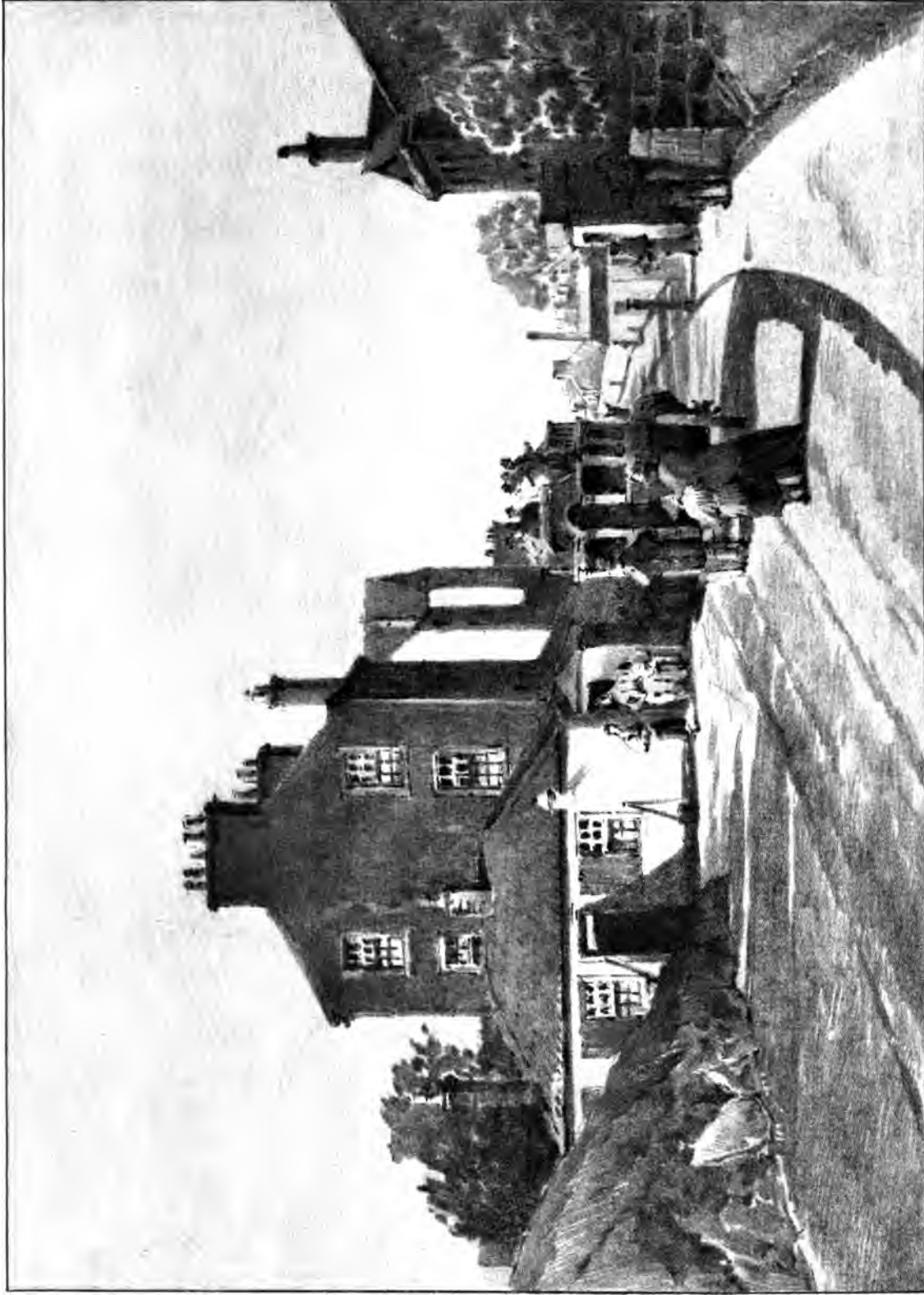
GREENOCK FROM THE CLYDE,
FROM A PAINTING BY SOLOMON, ABOUT 1825.

II.

Toll Bar and Cappielow Inn,

PORT-GLASGOW ROAD.

TOLL-BARS in combination with inns or public-houses have not been infrequent in Scotland. The Toll-Bar has perished, but the Inn remains to minister to the wants of the wayfarer. The accompanying picture brings before us CAPPIELOW INN and TOLL-BAR, on the PORT-GLASGOW ROAD. This once famous place of public resort, which has served its day, was for many and many a year familiar as a mile-stone to the passer-by. There is associated with Cappielow, which was a half-way house or resting-place between the two ports, a story not unworthy of being recorded. The incident happened very long ago, but it has the merit of being well-founded. In the earlier years of the century, and at midnight, fire broke out in a public work situated in Cartsyde; and as the fire-extinguishing apparatus of the Port-Glasgow Corporation was believed to be superior to that of Greenock, it was resolved at all hazards that it should be procured for the occasion. Everything depended on promptitude of action, and thereupon Mr. Donald M'Nicol, a well-known Greenock citizen of the time, sprung upon horseback, and proceeding at galloping pace, reached the Cappielow Toll-Bar almost at a bound. Finding the way barred, he summoned old Dumbreck, the toll-keeper of the day, to open the gates; but not meeting with an immediate response, he spurred his horse, and clearing the barriers swiftly found himself and his message at the Port. The speed at which M'Nicol made the journey may be realised when it is stated that on returning and clearing the Toll-Bar as before, old Dumbreck was seen peeping out and rubbing his eyes as if just emerging from sleep, and evidently under the impression that he was promptly answering the summons of M'Nicol to open the gates. Happily in our day the possession of efficient fire brigades and telephones obviates the necessity of such desperate adventures.



From a Drawing by E. Downie

TOLL BAR AND CAPPIELOW INN,
PORT-GLASGOW ROAD.

III.

Garvel Park House and Grounds.

THIS picture represents, though not exactly in its present form, a section of Eastern Greenock which of late has become prominent through the construction of the magnificent JAMES WATT DOCK. The mansion-house on Garvel Park estate is still left standing, though robbed of its former glory and surroundings. It is no longer a family residence, having become, in common with the grounds themselves, a victim to the trading and commercial requirements of the time. Garvel Park MANSION-HOUSE was built by Bailie Gammell, the prosperous Greenock merchant and banker, who had the honour of being one of the founders of the Greenock Bank. On leaving Greenock, this gentleman retired to the north of Scotland, where he acquired extensive landed estates, which are still in the possession of his descendants. GARVEL PARK estate was acquired in 1832 from Mr. Gammell's trustees, by Mr. John Scott, of Hawkhill, father of Mr. Charles Cunningham Scott, the world-renowned shipbuilder. It was occupied and brought into the condition represented in the picture, by Mr. Robert Sinclair, son-in-law of Mr. John Scott, of Hawkhill, who made it his residence. Mr. Sinclair was the managing partner of the firm of Scott, Sinclair & Co., of the Greenock Foundry, which had been established by his father-in-law and brothers-in-law in 1825, and was, it is believed, the first work erected in Great Britain for the special manufacture of marine engines. The firm of Scott, Sinclair & Co. is now known as the Greenock Foundry Company, the business of which is carried on by the descendants of its original founders, on a greatly extended scale. In 1855, after the death of Mrs. Sinclair, Garvel Park estate passed to her brother, Mr. Charles Cunningham Scott, then of Hawkhill, the father of the present Messrs. John and Robert Sinclair Scott. In 1868 it became the property of the Greenock Harbour Trust, which had acquired it in order to meet the growing shipping wants of the port. The new GRAVING DOCK was constructed some few years afterwards; and more recently there has sprung into being the JAMES WATT DOCK, which, while unfortunately not yet too well utilized, is recognised by merchants and shipowners as one of the very finest in the kingdom.



James McPherson & Son, Ltd.

From a Photograph

GARVEL PARK HOUSE AND GROUNDS.

IV.

The Cartsburn Mansion House.

THE accompanying illustration represents the Mansion-House of the lands of Cartsburn as it existed before the industrial growth of Eastern Greenock had encroached on the policies and marred the amenity of the place as a family residence. Cartsburn has a very old history, the earlier stages of which it is now somewhat difficult to trace. In or about the middle of the seventeenth century, Thomas Crawford obtained a Crown charter, whereby the lands of Cartsburn were made into a Burgh of Barony. The townlet which arose was named Crawforddyke, from a dyke or quay which he built there. In the picture herewith we have the Mansion-House of Cartsburn represented as a plain, old-fashioned structure. It is understood to have been built towards the end of the seventeenth century, when it was no longer necessary that the houses of the gentry should be formed as places of defence. Cartsburn House is now utilized for other purposes, and part of the old building may still be seen off Ingleston Road, over the Cartsburn.



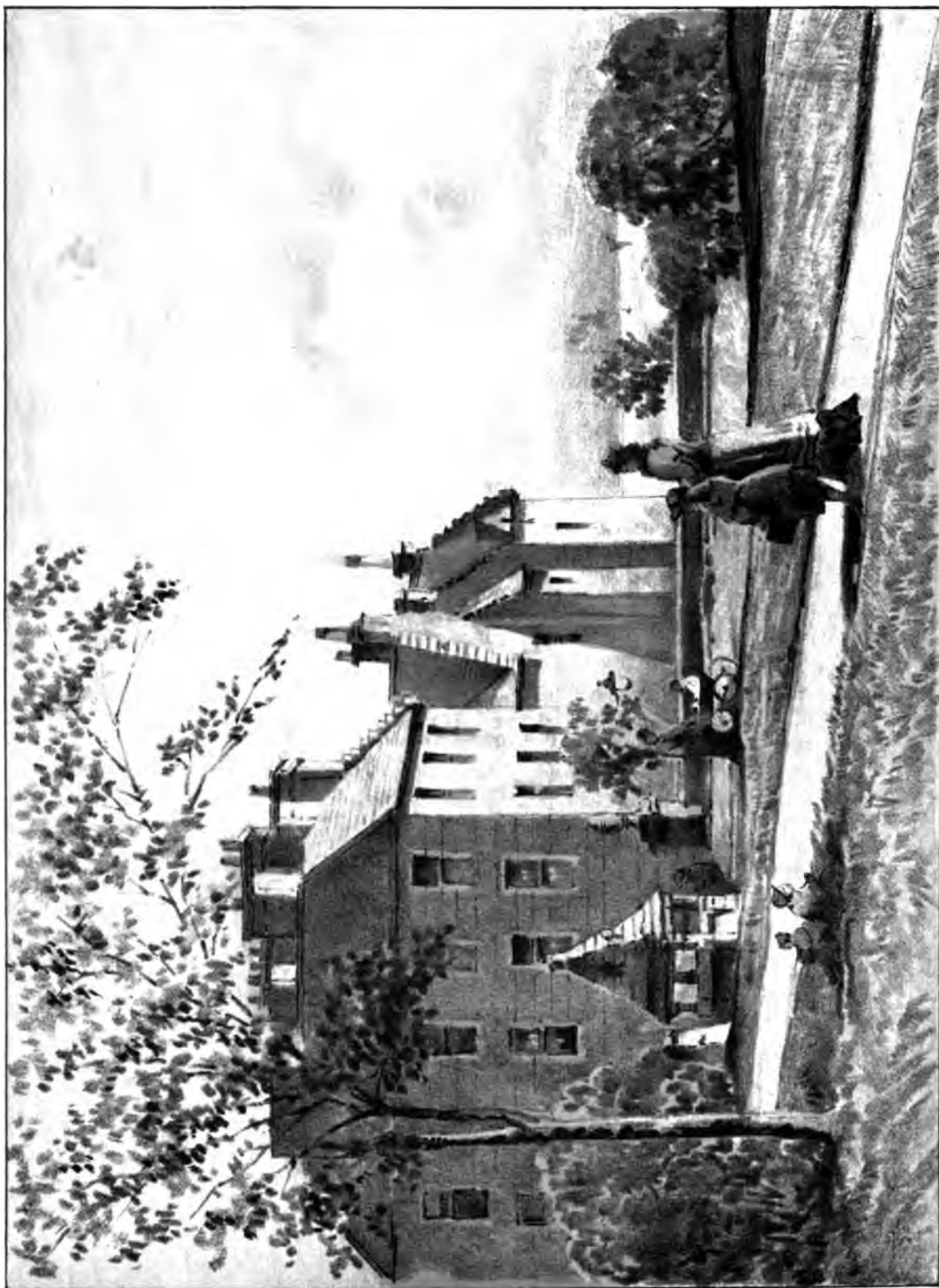
From a photograph

From a photograph

THE CARTSBURN MANSION HOUSE.

The Old Mansion-House.

NO Greenockian will fail to recognise in this picture the once familiar features of the old Greenock Mansion-House, which was removed in 1886 by the Caledonian Railway Company when constructing their branch line to Gourock. Greenock has but little to engage the attention of the antiquary; and, in the disappearance of the Mansion-House, it has lost a building which spoke to it through the voice of the centuries. Great regret was felt at this destruction, and no wonder, for it may be said to have presided over the birth, and witnessed the development, of the town. To delineate the history of the Mansion-House would be not only to narrate the rise and progress of Greenock, but to trace the development of civilisation. The old House, with its attractive architectural features and its altogether quaint appearance, is understood to have weathered the storms of four centuries. It is impossible to fix the exact date of its erection, but the main portion of the building, to which additions had been made from time to time, is believed to have existed as far back as the fourteenth century. Up to the period of its demolition it was still possible, with a little trouble, to decipher here and there dates impressed on stones connected with the buildings. In the Mansion-House itself the dates 1635 and 1674 were to be traced, while in connection with the draw-well of the ancient Manorial-House, so familiar to Wellpark visitors, might have been seen the figures 1629. For generations the Mansion-House was the residence of Sir Michael Robert Shaw Stewart's ancestors. In the olden time, ere the mere fishing village had developed into modern Greenock with its sugar and shipbuilding industries, there was quietness instead of bustle, and in those days the policies of the Mansion-House were both large and extensive. Eastwards and westwards they stretched in luxuriant plantations, running southwards to the Whinhill, and northwards to the shores of the Firth. The prospect from the Mansion-House was one of the finest. It stood upon a fine rising ground above the Assembly Rooms, and commanded a most extensive view of the town. The situation, before it was encroached upon by the erection of new buildings rendered necessary by the growth of the town, must have been one of delightful retirement and beauty. It commanded a large part of the Highlands, the woods of Rosneath, and the Helensburgh and Dumbarton heights. A writer in a Glasgow journal, commenting on the demolition of the old Mansion-House, says:—"While it remained the abode of the Schaws, it was a palatial house. The race was a generous race, kindly and patriotic, entertaining the Duke of Argyll at one time, at another raising troops for the King, building harbours for the people, and representing them in Parliament." It is now fully a hundred years since the Mansion-House ceased to be the family residence. It was at that time taken possession of by the officials who managed the Greenock estates, the then Lord of the Manor betaking himself to Ardgowan, now the seat of Sir Michael Robert Shaw Stewart. A history of great importance, though unfortunately now for the most part lost in the mists of antiquity, gathers round the old Greenock Mansion-House. If the quaint cell-looking places on the ground floor could have spoken, they would have startled us with numerous stories and incidents of thrilling interest. There was, for example, a vaulted apartment, small and square, whose appearance was strangely suggestive of stern and war-like memories. It was lighted by a single small window, ribbed with iron bars, and within there was to be seen a large and heavy grim-looking chain. The aspect of this time-worn apartment was suggestive of imprisonment, with all the harsh and cruel conditions that attended the incarcerations of the long ago. It was altogether a dark, dungeon-looking place, which must have rendered notable service in the troublesome days of the past. As to its accurate history, the historian fails us. But on one point tradition is not silent. Various stories have been handed down, and of those the most popular is, that during the long and sanguinary Napoleonic wars some French prisoners had been taken from the Tail-of-the-Bank, and confined in the gloomy-looking cell in the Mansion-House. It may be interesting to know that the latest addition to the venerable structure took place about 1740, and that the builder was James Watt, the father of the great engineer, whose brilliant achievements have made Greenock famous the wide world o'er. The old Mansion-House marked the passage from the old to the new; and as an ancient landmark, clothed with old associations and stirring memories, was more eloquent than the pen of the historian, in showing us the evolutionary steps from the rude and barbarous to the more refined stages of to-day. The exigencies of the iron horse are at war with the tastes of the poet and the antiquary, but it is to be regretted that there was not sufficient spirit in Greenock to preserve for historical purposes the invaluable landmark of the old Greenock Mansion-House.



From a Drawing by F. Down-

James McVicker & Co. Ltd.

THE OLD MANSION-HOUSE.

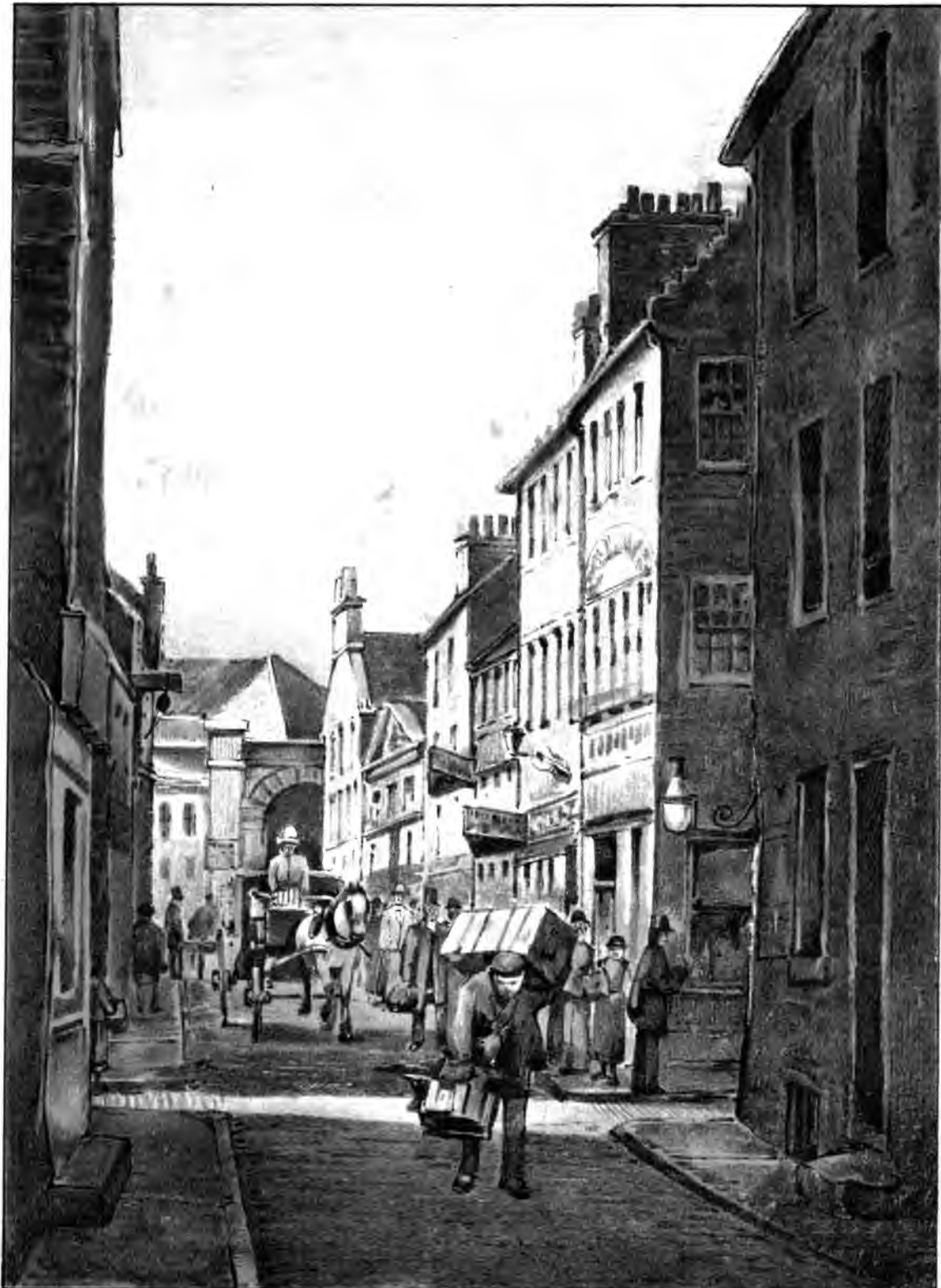
VI.

The East Quay Lane,

LOOKING TOWARDS CALEDONIAN RAILWAY STATION.

A GLANCE at this picture shews that it speaks to young and old Greenockians alike. It is at once suggestive of the extremely old and the very recent. What was so long known as the East Quay Lane has perished at the hands of the Improvement Trust, whose enlightened but costly operations, largely directed by Dr. Wallace, have greatly modernised the centre of the town, and improved the health of the community. In place of the narrow insanitary passage through which travellers made their way from Cathcart Street Station to Customhouse Quay, we have now a spacious thoroughfare opening towards the river, a marked improvement, which not only facilitates public convenience, but confers a new dignity on that quarter of the town. This fine new avenue, connecting Cathcart Street with the old Steamboat Quay, has fittingly been named Brymnner Street, in complimentary recognition of the memorable services rendered by the late Bailie Graham Brymnner in his capacity as a prominent member of the Improvement Trust. The old Caledonian Station, with which we had been familiar for almost half a century, has also been removed, to make way for the transformation rendered necessary by the formation of the Gourock Railway. It seems but yesterday since these landmarks, including the tenements that formed the western side of East Quay Lane, have disappeared, but sure enough they have now, with their chequered history, faded away into the dreamland of old Greenock. A becoming reverence for the old is not incompatible with a due appreciation of the new; and there must be few Greenockians who do not rejoice that the East Quay Lane has given way to a more spacious outlet to the river. Its existence was a most ungracious advertisement for Greenock; and the thousands of strangers passing through it from year to year, on their way to the coast, must have carried away with them to all quarters of the world unsavoury and unlovely impressions of the town and port. It was suggested some twenty-five years ago, that in order to promote the comfort and convenience of passengers, the old Lane should be roofed over, and negotiations for this purpose were entered into between the Corporation and the Railway Company. The estimated cost was £15,000, of which the Railway Company were willing to pay a considerable proportion. The attempt, however, proved fruitless, and public interest in the question subsided on the opening of the Greenock and Ayrshire Line in 1869, with its fine new outlet to the coast from Princes Pier. The passenger traffic from Princes Pier, which for many years was very flourishing, has suffered in turn from the growing spirit of competition which has provided the public with a magnificent terminal station and commodious harbour works at Gourock. Prominent among the old buildings that perished in the widening of East Quay Lane were the old Tontine Stables and a property belonging to Mr. Robert Boag, a gentleman who was a member of the Town Council in the dawning years of the century, and whose name is so honourably associated with the earlier days of Free Education in Greenock. There are incidents associated with the demolition that are now rapidly becoming traditions. There can be but few Greenockians whose recollections extend themselves to the memorable days of Pie Betty, and her once flourishing shop in the now demolished portion of East Quay Lane. Pie Betty, however, lived and thrived half a century ago, and her place of merchandise was much frequented by the Greenock merchants and gentlemen of the time. The attraction seems to have been a double one, the manner and the wares of the fair occupant being alike popular. In short, a fine presence, a superiority of intellect, and a charming geniality of manner, characterised this lady pie-vendor of East Quay Lane fame, and made her a favourite with the masculine *élite* among the Greenock folks of fifty years ago. Local tradition relates that a daughter of Pie Betty's became the wife of a Captain Jump, a gentleman who was known as a partner of the eminent shipping firm of Duff, MacKinroy & Co., of Liverpool. This Mr. MacKinroy at one time occupied Levan House, on the Cloch Road, which became for a time, in comparatively recent years, the residence of Mr. James Johnston Grieve, ex-Provost of, and ex-M.P. for, Greenock, previous to his settling down in Edinburgh.





From a Drawing by F. Townie

Engraved by J. Smith, 1876

**EAST QUAY LANE,
LOOKING TOWARDS THE CALEDONIAN RAILWAY STATION.**

connection with the station was Miss Waddell, who occupied a small apartment to the left of the Station. The improved refreshment bar was introduced by Mrs. Fleming. The purveying has been for many years in the hands of the Misses Gilchrist, by whom it is conducted on the most approved principles. The construction of the branch line to Gourrock necessitated the demolition of the old landmark at Cathcart Street, which has been superseded by a comparatively modern type of building. The new Station, if more spacious and magnificent, is not quite so conveniently situated for the public as the old one. The present manager of the Caledonian Company is Mr. James Thompson, well-known to many gentlemen in Greenock; and his name suggests that of our townsman, Mr. Benjamin Dickson, formerly associated with the management of the Caledonian at Greenock, and now the local agent of the Company in connection with the London and North-Western.

The railway connection, as was to be expected, exercised a favourable influence upon the trade of the town. This is seen in the growth of the population, which in 1841 was under 37,000, or little more than half of what it is to-day. When the iron horse was introduced the communication between Greenock, Paisley, Glasgow, and intervening places was mainly by the river. The old stage coach, which had so long connected the different centres of population throughout the country, and about which so much romance still lingers, was gradually disappearing, and in those districts connected by water-ways had all but passed away. The daily service maintained between Greenock and Glasgow by the Royal Mail Coach is believed to have terminated about a decade before the opening of the Greenock railway. When the trains began to run between Greenock and Glasgow there was, on the whole, a not inefficient service of both goods and passenger steamers on the river. Turning to an old directory dated a few years earlier we find a list of the steamers which were plying daily between the lower and the upper reaches of the Clyde. These were the Caledonian (Jas. Whyte); Clarence (John Turner); Greenock (Jas. Henderson); Helensburgh (A. M'Leod); Sultan (A. M'Kellar); Waverley (R. Douglass.) These steamers, the average tonnage of which was about 65 tons, called at Helensburgh, Greenock, Port-Glasgow, and Dumbarton, having their terminus at Glasgow. There were other small steamers or passage boats sailing regularly from Greenock, which, in addition to carrying passengers to Port-Glasgow, Dumbarton, and Glasgow, called at Erskine Ferry, Cartmouth, and Renfrew. The service of steamers connecting the Clyde with Dublin, Belfast, Liverpool, and other parts was considerable, while communication with the coast places below Greenock was also well maintained. The steamboat service on the river, though less expeditious, survived, on account of its cheaper fares, the railway competition for many years. The railway gave a stimulus to steamboat construction, which resulted in the production of larger and finer vessels, and an altogether improved river service. This is evident from the following list of steam packets at work in 1846, as taken from a directory of that date:—

The Glasgow Castle Company's Royal Mail Steam Packets, For Gourrock, Dunoon, and Rothesay.

Agent: James Morrison, 2 Shannon's Close.					
Cardiff Castle,	Dugald Weir,	100	Inverary Castle,	Archd. M'Gill,	110
Craignish Castle,	Neil M'Gill,	100	Rothesay Castle,	John M'Intyre,	90
Duntroon Castle,	Donald Currie,	100	Windsor Castle,	John Campbell,	100
Dunoon Castle,	A. M'Diarmid,	100	Vale of Leven,	Alex. M'Ewen,	70
Edinburgh Castle,	Colin Gillies,	80			

To Helensburgh, Roseneath, and Glasgow—Twice a-day, and Gairloch-head, once a-day.

Agent: D. Henderson, Steam-boat Quay.					
British Queen,	J. Campbell,	80	Emperor,	R. M'Aulay,	69
Sultan,	D. M'Coll,	68	Sovereign,		

In the earlier days of the Greenock Railway, the Company established a service of handsome omnibuses between Cathcart Street Station and Gourrock. The run was a popular one; the 'buses being drawn by a suite of very fine horses, which attracted attention; and the guards a superior class of men, whose vivacity and geniality recommended them to their fellow-travellers. Lively incidents in connection with this 'bus service are still related by some of our elder citizens, who love to recall those popular guards with their wit and humour of the long ago.

This picture of the now displaced station, with its vanishing history of half-a-century, vivifies old associations and awakens sleeping memories. It recalls, among other things, the open, seatless carriages, or CATTLE PENS, for the transit of third-class passengers, in the disappearance of which there is an earnest of further human improvement; it also brings before us the eager faces and bustling movements of merchants to and from the Sugar Exchange, a triangular building with an entrance latterly from the west side of the station, which owed its erection in 1857 to the enterprise of the late Mr. William Anderson, father of Mr. John Anderson, sugar-broker; and we see again the promenading and hear the animated conversation of the *twos* or *threes* on the platform, interrupted now and then by the despatch of a message or the hasty perusal of a newly-received telegram, from all of which there frequently resulted business transactions of no ordinary magnitude. The Sugar Exchange stands upon the site of the old Greenock Theatre, where famous actors such as Charles Kean, John Kemble, M'Cready, Charles Matthews, and Miss Fawcett, have frequently delighted local audiences. There is hardly a limit to the train of thought suggested by the old station, which daily for half-a-century received and despatched its living human freight. It was more than a railway terminus; it was also an important rendezvous or public trysting place, the removal of which, while touching most, will hardly affect two individuals alike. To some it will recall joyful, to others sorrowful occasions; not a few will be reminded of kindly and genial faces that are seen no more; while to those "afflicted with the malady of thought," it will alter the perspective of life and fill the mind with a series of mellowing reflections.



THE GLASGOW, PAISLEY, AND GREENOCK RAILWAY STATION, 1841.

(AFTERWARDS THE CALEDONIAN.)

From a Painting by T. CARSELL, which belonged to the late Mr. James Gilchrist.

VIII.

The Anchor Inn.

THE Building represented by the accompanying picture, though once instinct with life and passion, is now to the inhabitants of Greenock little more than a name. The ANCHOR INN, which has disappeared under the operations of the Improvement Trust, was situated on the south side of Shaw Street, between Highland Close and East Quay Lane; and its origin takes us back to a period of considerable antiquity. It was in existence ere yet the fishing village had developed into modern Greenock; and opening out not on the well-formed harbour of to-day, but on the beach, was largely frequented by the better class of sea captains and strangers of the time. The building had a fine elevation suggestive of a quiet dignity, and architecturally may be said to have been in advance of its day. A townsman, who possesses a front elevation view, and takes a special interest in Old Greenock, supplies the following description:—"The Anchor Inn was a building of considerable merit, and was superior to the general class of buildings occupying what was then the high street of the town. It was of good altitude, and had fair-sized windows surmounted by an elaborately fretted cornice supported with brackets; also, a massive grooved pediment, with round moulded window in centre, and scroll-eave stones. On the top were three handsome carved vases. The centre windows were surrounded with mouldings; and the main entrance had a moulded half-circle arch, with key and twin keystones. In its earlier days, when it faced the sea, the Anchor Inn must have looked from the old quays a very handsome structure." On taking down the old building, a west-end gentleman was so impressed with the beauty of some of the architectural ornaments that he requested permission to obtain them. The request being granted, he had them removed to grace the summer-house in connection with his garden. The year 1703 is the date at which the Anchor Inn is supposed to have been built, so that it must have long preceded the improved hotel accommodation that was afterwards called into existence by the growth of the community. The Museum Hotel was built about 1750, the White Hart about 1770, and the Tontine in 1801; so that the Anchor Inn is supposed to have been for a long period the leading hotel of the town. The character of the old hotel as it existed some 60 or 70 years ago is still within the recollection of the living. At that time its earlier respectable status had gone, and though then still used as a hotel, its general appearance and surroundings were such as to indicate that it had seen better days. It had so deteriorated at the time we speak of that it was utilised for the business of penny reels at the summer Fair. The old inn may be said to have witnessed the dawn of the town's development. This is evident when it is recalled that fully half a century after it was built the streets were nameless, with the exception of the main thoroughfare, known as the High Street, which extended from the Row or Rue-end to the Kirk Burn, and was the direct route through which passed worshippers from Port-Glasgow and Kilmalcolm to the old West Kirk. The following minute, extracted from the records of the Town Council, dated August, 1775, shows the rather embryotic condition of the town at this time:—"Same day, the meeting considering that it is necessary that the streets in the town have names to distinguish them from each other—therefore they agreed that the streets after described should be called as follows:—The Laigh Street, from the Row-end to the Midequay, to be called Shaw Street; from the Midequay to the Bridge, Dalrymple Street; from the Row-end to the Square, Cathcart Street; the street from the Square westward, Hamilton Street; from the Square to the Midequay, William Street; from the place where the Poultry Mercate is kept to the Flesh Mercate and westward, Mercate Street; and the street leading from the Laigh Street to the head of the Long Vennel, Charles Street." It is thus 116 years since street designation was adopted in Greenock. On the opposite side of the street, and a little to the west of the site of the Anchor Inn, still stands an old property, which forms the corner of Cross-shore Street. Considerable interest attaches to this old tenement, part of which was at one time occupied as an inn, which is believed to have been the local terminus of the stage coach in the days before the advent of steamers and railways. The date (1716) is still legible on the front of the building,

and the Inn in connection therewith must have been of considerable importance when Shaw and Dalrymple Streets formed the main highway of Greenock. A sun dial was on the corner of the building, but unfortunately its radiating lines have been obliterated. The locality here is rather historical. At the junction of Cross-shore and Shaw Streets, there were four stones in the form of a cross, indicating the place where goods and chattels were sold by public roup. Veitch, Herriot, and Thompson, were the names of Greenock auctioneers, still remembered, who disposed of goods at the Cross-shore. This Mr. Thompson was the man who shot at the late Mr. John Kerr Gray, Town Clerk of Greenock. In the immediate vicinity there may still be pointed out the birth-place of a recent Lord Provost of Glasgow, and also where a prominent Australian, and afterwards Greenock merchant, began business. Along the Breast, on both sides of the Mid Quay, was chiefly occupied by gabbarts discharging coal from Glasgow and the neighbourhood for the use of the community, there being then no railway; and during the autumn there was quite a fleet of herring smacks or sloops of about 60 tons register delivering their cargoes of half-cured herrings in barrels to the various cooperages at Charles or Herring Street and that district, where they were re-cured and made fit for winter use. These establishments are all but extinct, the course of this trade having changed. Todd, M'Lean, Jamieson, Bannatyne, Barr, Black, Glass, and Chisholm, were all well known in that trade half a century ago. Near by, at foot of Cross-shore Street, on the Breast, were situated the Tar Pots, which were used in old times by carpenters and others while graving vessels on the bank or shallow part of the harbour during low tides. The smell at times was a little disagreeable to the olfactory nerves of passers by. An old book-stall stood not far off, where many of our older readers may have picked up bargains. Close by, in a four-storey, land was for many years the atelier and residence of Mr. William Clark, the well-known marine painter.



From a Drawing by E. Downie

James W. Bell & Co. Lith.

THE ANCHOR INN.

IX.

Shaw Street, South Side,

FROM CROSS-SHORE STREET, LOOKING WEST.

THAT portion of Shaw Street, to the immediate west of Cross-shore Street, as it exists to-day, is in striking and pleasing contrast with previous features of the district, as represented by the accompanying view. The south side of Shaw Street, running westwards from Cross-shore Street to William Street, has been entirely re-built. Many of the displaced structures were at one time important both as business premises and as private residences. In the immediate locality represented by the picture were the old Town House and lock-up. Previous to the recent removal of the prison in Bank Street, the jail, or "Black Hole" as it was called, was situated in front of the Town House; and it may be mentioned, as stated in Weir's "History of Greenock," that "the first 'durance vile' which was used in Greenock was a thatched house at the bottom of Broad Close, where the jugs (or joughs) were hung *in terrorem* of offenders." This was a primitive method for the temporary detention and punishment of sturdy beggars and other offenders, by which they were attached to the outside of the prison walls, and subjected to the ignominy of public exposure. There was also in the immediate vicinity a much-frequented tavern, in which many of the Council meetings were held, an evidence surely that the dignity surrounding the Town Councillor of to-day was unknown to his predecessor of the olden time. The building in which the business of the tavern was carried on is still extant, and is at present the property of Mr. Edward M'Callum, who has a grocery establishment in the low flat.



From a Photograph

From a Photograph

SHAW STREET (SOUTH SIDE),
FROM CROSS-SHORE STREET, LOOKING WEST.

X.

Broad Close.

THIS view brings before us the Broad Close of a quarter of a century ago. It is, despite its name, a narrow thoroughfare, running parallel with Highland Close, and connecting Cathcart with Shaw Street. Previous to 1858, the ancient structures on both sides of the close had undergone little alteration ; but with the erection, at this date, of the City Buildings, which form the south-eastern portion of the lane, a great improvement took place. In 1877, the School Board erected Shaw Street public seminary, which forms the north-eastern portion, with the result that the whole east side of the Broad Close has been entirely modernised. The west side consists of the Tontine Buildings, erected at the beginning of the century, and other older structures. On this side of the CLOSE there still stands an old building, part of which was utilised as the Star Hall. This hall for many years formed the district mission premises of the Free Middle Church ; and it is worthy of record that, long before the passing of the compulsory education act, this congregation had in vigorous operation here, not only religious, but educational schemes for the benefit of the district. They instituted a day school in the Star Hall, which was known as the Broad Close School, in which a sound education was provided for the children of the district at nominal fees. The first teacher of the Broad Close School was Mr. W. M'Call, of Newton-in-Ayr, who was appointed in 1857. Mr. Gordon Simpson, at present headmaster of Ann Street Public School, taught there from 1866 to 1874 ; and it is worthy of remark that he was the first teacher in Greenock in possession of a Government certificate, and the first under the Greenock School Board to earn the Government grant. The Broad Close School disappeared with the erection of Shaw Street Public Seminary, which made provision on an adequate scale for the educational wants of the district. The mission premises of the Free Middle Church are now in the Arcade Hall. Mr. John Malcolm, at one time carried on a printing business in the Broad Close. This gentleman, it will be remembered, was subsequently appointed Inspector of Poor for Greenock, an office which he held for many years, when he was succeeded by the present inspector, Mr. John S. Deas.



from a photograph.

James M. Melvie & Sons.

BROAD CLOSE.

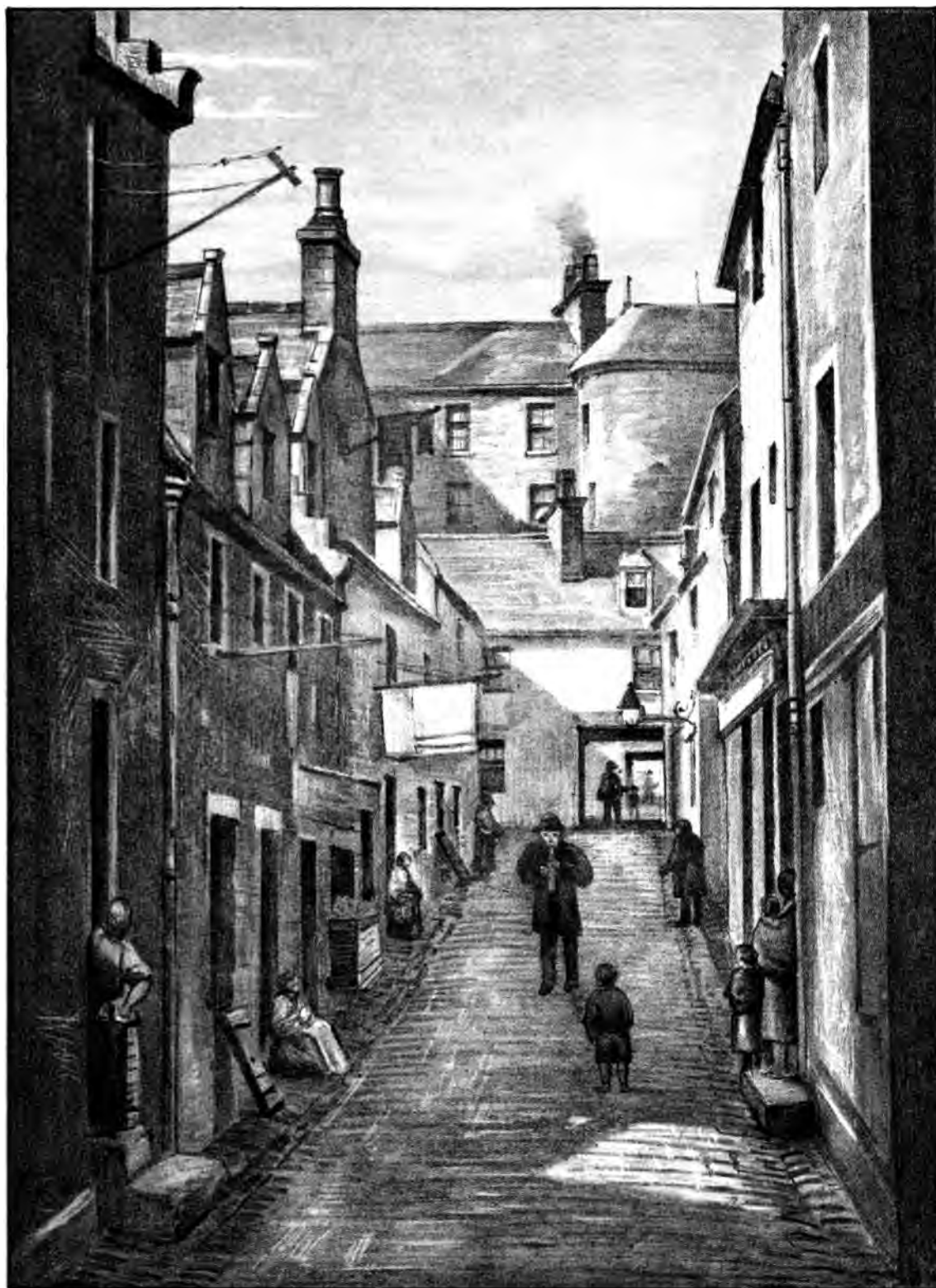
XI.

Longwell Close.

THE Longwell Close, around which some of the earlier associations of Greenock clustered, is no longer known as such. It was a narrow passage running parallel with William Street, and connecting Cathcart Street with Shaw Street. The Close was one of the condemned areas under the operation of "The Artizans' Dwellings Act," and the dilapidated tenements on both sides have given place to better and more sanitary erections. It has been converted into a modern thoroughfare, which has been designated Duff Street, in complimentary recognition of the services rendered by the late Bailie John Duff to the Improvement Trust, of which he was for many years the convener. The citizen, whose memory is perpetuated by the new street, was a son of Provost Duff, who presided over the destinies of Greenock some thirty years ago, and a brother of Dr. David Duff, Professor of Church History in the United Presbyterian Church, whose recent death has been so much regretted. The Longwell Close derived its name from a deep well believed to have been built on the property of James Johnstone, situated in the locality, which is supposed to have come into existence two hundred years ago. Referring to this well, Mr. George Williamson, in his second volume of "Old Greenock," remarks, at page 32 :—

"Tradition says the well is 'deep,' like that of Jacob, mentioned by the Evangelist St. John, and 'so frequently described by travellers in the Holy Land, and whose fame has lasted, and will last, for 'ages. Some old residents assert that the Longwell is fifty, others, sixty feet deep. This we can well 'credit. It is satisfactory to state that in the course of the operations of the Improvement Trust in 'removing the old houses in the Close for the formation of what is now known as Duff Street a deep 'well has been discovered which fully answers the description above given. In digging a trench for 'the common sewer in the middle of the street, a well was discovered about two feet 'under the causeway. It proved to have been built without lime, and measured exactly 'four feet six inches in diameter, so that its circumference must have been not less 'than thirteen feet. The eastern portion had been accidentally removed in the course of excavation, 'but the western half was intact. It had been filled up and covered with large water-rolled stones. 'On endeavouring to fathom the depth of the well the workmen put down a boring-rod seventeen 'feet in length, and found no bottom. When the rod was drawn up, the water 'sprang,' it was said, 'to the surface,' proving that it was supplied by a spring. Can it be doubted that the fine cool spring 'water was highly-prized as an essential ingredient of the famous punch, consumed by the Bailies, 'Councillors, and other citizens of the olden time in the adjoining tap-room, or in the taverns of 'M'Leran, M'Dougall, Mrs. Gordon, Mrs. Reid, Mrs. Alexander, and others frequented by the 'Magistrates and Council, and the citizens generally."

In forming the new street care has been taken to mark the site of the famous Old Well. In entering Duff Street, there may be observed, midway between Cathcart and Shaw Streets, a large circular stone in the middle of the thoroughfare containing the following inscription: "The Long Well, 1682." The Close was not much of a thoroughfare, except for those living in the locality, which were of the poorer class.



From a Drawing, by P. Townie

James M. Keene & Sons, Lith.

LONGWELL CLOSE.

XII.

Dalrymple Street from William Street.

LOOKING WEST, SHEWING THE JAMES WATT INN.

GREENOCK has at least two shrines that attract devoted worshippers from far and near. In the one case, the poetic soul is drawn to that sacred spot in the Old West Kirk burying-ground, where repose the ashes of Burns' Highland Mary; and in the other, the lover of the scientific approaches with awe and veneration the consecrated nook of earth where the illustrious Watt first saw the light. A whole literature has sprung up to record the triumphs of the national bard and the obligations of civilisation to the great engineering spirit that "lighted up with intellectual day the mazy wheels of nature." But the imperishable contributions of both to the progress of humanity are too vast to be tabulated. The following picture represents the place, and also what was popularly believed to be the veritable house in which James Watt was born. The site is now vacant, the tenement having disappeared, along with many others, in the course of the renovation process that has taken place in Greenock. The house, as here represented, was the second tenement from the south-west corner of William Street, where it is intersected by Dalrymple Street. It was not, however, the actual house in which the infant Watt first drew the breath of life. The original structure which had been hallowed by the birth of the mighty genius that was to transform the world, was removed towards the end of the last century. At that time Mrs. Helen Cameron, or Cambridge, purchased the premises and rebuilt the house where, in 1736, the boy whose early youth and mature manhood were to be engaged in devising cunning appliances for harnessing the steam giant to the service of man, came into existence. A portion of the middle flat of the rebuilt tenement, along with the corner building, was occupied for many years as a public hostelry, under the name of The James Watt Inn. In the introduction to "Memorials of James Watt," the writer, referring to the materials necessary for the completion of the work, says: "A first and essential point was to discover, if possible, the house in which Mr. Watt was born. This was soon satisfactorily done. It was ascertained upon evidence, both oral and documentary, that James Watt first drew the breath of life in a house which had stood upon the site of the tenement occupied in part, in 1820, as the 'Greenock Tavern'—the very house in which, in those days, the Club meetings were held, and within which, by a singular coincidence, the inquiry which terminated in establishing the interesting fact was instituted." The following additional extract, as bearing on the subject, is taken from the appendix to the "Memorials"—"The house formerly called the 'Greenock,' and now known as the 'Watt Tavern,' occupies the site of an older house, which was built upon a piece of ground acquired in feu in 1699 from Sir John Schaw by Alexander Scott, sometime mariner, afterwards merchant in Greenock. The old, or original house fronted the sea, from which it was removed only by the breadth of an ordinary road, in process of time called the High Street, and afterwards, as it is at present, Dalrymple Street. The tenement in question is the last but one at the eastern termination of the south side of Dalrymple Street. William Street, from which entrance is obtained to the upper portion of the building occupied as the tavern, intersects Dalrymple Street at the last tenement of the latter street." The Greenock Tavern, in its later years, was better known as the James Watt Inn; and it is interesting to state that it was, during election times, the headquarters of one or other of the local parties striving for municipal or parliamentary honours; and was frequently, for weeks preceding an election during the days of the restricted franchise, kept as an open house for the voters. James Watt was born in 1736, and died in 1819, at the advanced age of 83. He was buried in the Parish Church of Heathfield, at Handsworth, where a Gothic chapel, enshrining a marble statue by Chantrey, was shortly afterwards erected to his memory. His father and immediate "forbears" lie in the Old West Kirk burying-ground. Greenock as yet has but little to boast of as regards the architectural or the monumental, and so far she has no adequate public

memorial to perpetuate the fame of her great and distinguished son. The Watt Institute, with its fine marble statue by Chantrey, attests that Watt is not altogether without recognition from the town that has the honour of his birth. The lineaments of the great engineer are immortalised in the statue, which, on account of its fidelity and exquisite finish, has been selected to do honour to Watt in national as well as provincial centres. The inscription, which is a model of literary beauty and conciseness, is from the classic pen of the famous Lord Jeffrey, and is more than worthy of reproduction. It runs—

THE
INHABITANTS OF GREENOCK
HAVE ERECTED THIS STATUE OF
JAMES WATT,
NOT TO EXTEND A FAME
ALREADY IDENTIFIED WITH
THE MIRACLES OF STEAM,
BUT TO TESTIFY
THE PRIDE AND REVERENCE
WITH WHICH HE IS REMEMBERED
IN THE PLACE OF HIS NATIVITY,
AND THEIR DEEP SENSE
OF THE GREAT BENEFITS
HIS GENIUS HAS CONFERRED
ON MANKIND.
BORN XIX JANUARY MDCCXXXVI.
DIED AT HEATHFIELD
IN STAFFORDSHIRE
AUGUST XXV MDCCXIX.

It is meet, however, that Greenock should publicly commemorate the name of Watt in a manner worthy of her great heritage. She will surely cherish and hallow the spot of ground at the south-west corner of William Street, sacred to his birth and his illustrious memory. In recent years there have been numerous suggestions for the erection of a Watt Monument in a conspicuous part of the town. The Cemetery, the now vacant site of his birth-place, Cathcart Square, and the Esplanade have all been mentioned as possible situations in which to commemorate in fitting monumental form the genius and services of the mighty dead. The object ought to be specially dear to Greenockians, but is, besides, such as transcends all local interest. Greenock is proud of him, but his reputation is co-extensive with the civilised world. People of many lands have offered contributions towards a memorial; and it can only be a question of time when a fitting monument will arise to perpetuate the fame of James Watt. A leading local engineer and shipbuilder has signified his willingness to subscribe the sum of two hundred pounds as the nucleus of a fund towards the erection of a memorial in William Street, provided the town would make a gift of the vacant site. But, so far as can be gathered, the times are not yet ripe for such action on the part of the authorities. In the meantime the Greenock Corporation are in possession of a priceless heritage, from which no sordid considerations should permit their alienation. Whatever may be done in other parts of the town to shew honour to the memory of Watt, the site of his birth-place should be guarded with a loving care, and transformed into an artistic and beautiful memorial that would be at once a rallying centre for strangers, and a worthy recognition of the eminent citizen who was cradled in our midst.

XIII.

The Bell Entry.

TO bye-gone generations there was, perhaps, no locality in town better known than that represented by the accompanying picture. The old and historical building known as the BELL ENTRY has, in common with many others, been sacrificed to the sanitary and architectural requirements of the time. It fronted the West Harbour, near the foot of the Vennel, and in its day was a conspicuous centre of activity and local interest. A part of it still remains, but its value as a venerable landmark has been destroyed. The grand old building has been cut in two, with the result that the western portion has been removed. The origin of the building, formerly known as the Town Cellars, and afterwards designated The Bell Entry, is exceedingly interesting, as throwing a valuable side-light on the development of the town's trade during the latter part of the eighteenth century. Tobacco and other imports had been increasing, and the Town Council of the time were memorialised by Glasgow and Greenock merchants to provide additional warehouse accommodation. The result was the erection of the Town Cellars, which took place about 1750. The site of the new warehouses was for very many years one of the busiest portions of the town. It is interesting to note how the designation of The Bell Entry was given to the building, and how it gradually superseded that of the Town Cellars. The workmen employed about the West Harbour feeling the want of a clock to indicate the time, and a bell to summon them to and from work, requested the Council of the day to furnish these requirements. The following minute of Council, dated 5th November, 1754, shows that the local rulers of the time were not averse to granting the workmen's request. "As the triangles whereon the bell is hung "in the Royal Closs are so much decayed that it is necessary they be removed, it was proposed "that a Bellhouse be erected upon the roof of the New Cellars, to be so executed as that a clock may "be placed therein, into which Bellhouse the said bell in the Royal Closs may be hung." The result was the erection of a Bell-Tower above the passage or archway through the building, which was duly furnished with clock and bell. (The bell, however, was a new one, as that taken from the Royal Closs was found to be too small for the new belfry.) Hence arose the name of the Bell Entry, by which the Town Cellars were afterwards known. The steeple of the Mid Parish Church was not erected till 1787, previous to which time that at the Bell Entry was the only spire in town. The bell and clock at the Entry were in use up till 1839, in which year the timber steeple or belfry having become dangerous was taken down. The bell in the Old West Kirk was the first in Greenock; the second was in the Royal Closs; and the third was that hung in the timber steeple at the Bell Entry. It is not known what became of the bell at the Entry; but it will interest not a few to learn that the original bell of the Old West Kirk is still doing duty in Greenock. It is located in the belfry of the West Parish Church, where it is used for striking the quarters of the hour. It is thus an important link between the old kirk and the new, and a relic that can hardly fail to be appreciated in this memorable year of West Parish retrospection. In the east-end of the Bell Entry building there was a loft, which was converted into a Chapel for the Seamen's Friends' Society. Previous to this, services for seamen were held on board a vessel in the harbour. The Seamen's Friends' Society have now their well-equipped Sailors' Home, with Chapel and Reading-Room, at East India Breast. Immediately adjoining the Bell Entry was a famous tap room or public-house, of which Mr. John Farquhar, and afterwards Mr. Hugh Blair, were for many years the genial landlords. It was a place of much resort, and in the earlier years of the century was largely frequented by West-End youths. There must still, we should suppose, be among us a few survivals of the time when the tavern in connection with the Bell Entry could boast of its being a popular rendezvous or trysting-place, familiarly known as "Philippi." In the first half of the century it was not customary to exact social penalties for frequenting public-houses; and it was not uncommon among Greenock gentlemen, when saying "*Au revoir*" to their friends, to add, "I shall see thee again at Philippi." The old Dry Dock, beside the Bell Entry, the first of the kind constructed in Greenock, was built by subscription in 1780.

XIV.

The House with Five Gables.

THE house with the five gables, as portrayed in the accompanying picture, was a quaint specimen of architecture that takes us back to the seventeenth century. It was a common architectural feature of the earlier part of that period; and buildings of corresponding design are still to be met with in Cartsdyke, and in the older parts of the City of Edinburgh. The house of which we herewith give a representation was situated in Dalrymple Street, at the east corner of Taylor's Close, and, in common with many others, has perished with the progress of the Improvement Trust. Behind the five gabled land shown in the illustration was a court called Jibboom Square. It was irregularly formed, and was surrounded by two-storied houses. In connection with these tenements, there were four distinct outside stairs, each of which consisted of from 12 to 14 steps, with wooden hand rails or ravel leading to the respective houses. The locality was so very disreputable that respectable citizens would hardly dream of entering it after sundown. In certain old houses in Dalrymple Street and in Cartsdyke there has been observed a rather singular feature. This was a small square of glass or solitary window-pane inserted in some of the old-fashioned gables, in direct communication with the chimney. It has been supposed that this peculiar arrangement was designed to reflect the light of the fire for the benefit of fishing-boats coming in from sea. The contrivance, however, is believed to have served a double purpose. In many of the old houses referred to, the windows were so placed that no light from them could reach the fireplace; and it is thought that the streak of daylight coming through the square of glass at the back of the chimney was intended to facilitate the cooking operations of the housewife by day, as well as to guide the movements of the fishermen by means of a lamp at night. The house with the five gables must at one time have faced the beach, and had this singular feature of chimney or gable light to which we have referred.

Lindsay's Lane.

THIS picture gives us an interesting view of Lindsay's Lane, which in the earlier days of Greenock was rather an important business quarter of the town. Opening from West Quay Lane, and running eastwards in parallel line with the harbour, it terminates with the Vennel, into which it forms an outlet. In Lindsay's Lane and West Breast there are still extant some old properties with important historical associations. The offices of the Greenock Customhouse were located there, and immediately adjoining was the Greenock Bank. It was not till 1714 that Greenock was declared a public port; and in that year officers of Her Majesty's Customs from Port-Glasgow were stationed here for the collection of revenue. There is no distinct evidence to fix the exact situation of the first Customhouse opened in Greenock, but it is generally supposed to have been in Cathcart Street. It is known, however, that the business of Her Majesty's Customs in Greenock was for many years transacted on the first floor of a tenement still existing at the east corner of William Street and Mid Quay. This tenement was the property of Mr. John Clark, whose eldest surviving daughter was the grandmother (Scott) of our eminent townsman, Mr. John Scott, C.B., of Hawkhill. The offices at the corner of William Street and Mid Quay were leased by the Commissioners of Customs in 1759; and there the business of this public department continued to be carried on till the closing years of the century, when it was transferred to Bailie Gammell's property in Lindsay's Lane. Here the offices continued until the erection of the handsome Greenock Customhouse fronting the Old Steamboat Quay, the foundation stone of which was laid on the 2nd of May, 1817. It is interesting to note that "the ceremony was performed "with masonic honours by Sir Michael Shaw Stewart, Bart. [father of the present lord of the Manor], "Provincial Grand Master of Renfrew and Dumbartonshires, in presence of Quintin Leitch and "Robert Ewing, Esqrs., the Magistrates of the Burgh, and a large concourse of the inhabitants." The old Greenock Bank, the history of which is so closely associated with Lindsay's Lane and West Breast, was established one hundred and six years ago, and had a career of fifty-eight years, after which it became absorbed in the Western Bank. At the centenary celebration of the Watt Library, held 5th January, 1883, Mr. John Scott, C.B., in an address reviewing the growth of Greenock during the hundred years that had elapsed since the opening of the library, stated, in reference to this early local Banking institution, that some spirited individuals in our neighbourhood had established Greenock's first bank in 1785, under the name of Dunlop, Houstoun, Gammell & Co., which was afterwards better known as the Greenock Bank, several guinea notes of which were to be seen in the Museum. The Mr. Gammell who figured in the co-partnery of the Greenock Bank was Bailie James Gammell, of Garvel Park, who built and owned the property in Lindsay's Lane in which the Custom-house and the Bank were located. He died in 1825. The late Mr. Alexander Thomson, so well and so favourably known as a citizen and a banker, entered the service of the Greenock Bank in 1800. He had previously been in the office of the Bank at Glasgow, where it was represented by an agency. Mr. Thomson had been only eighteen months in the Greenock office when he was promoted to the management of the Bank. The Greenock Bank continued to exist till 1843 when its business was purchased by the Western Bank, and absorbed in the larger concern. It was the last private Bank of issue in Scotland. Mr. Thomson was a personification of method; and his movements to and from the Bank seemed to be regulated with such mathematical precision that shopkeepers along the route could adjust their timepieces by his appearances. When the Greenock Bank was merged in the Western, the manager, Mr. Alexander Thomson, was one of the principal shareholders. He was a native of the parish of Killin, and died in 1867, at the advanced age of ninety. In the early years of the century, he had built the stately mansion of Caddlehill. Referring to Mr. Thomson's feu, Mr. George Williamson says: "The land was a bare hill top, which, by the liberal and judicious expenditure of money, and "the exercise of fine taste, Mr. Thomson converted into one of the most delightful of suburban "residences." We have still happily with us a representative of the Thomson family in the person of

Mr. James Thomson, who occupies the family residence at Caddlehill, and who in going out and in among us brightens our daily life with his genial manner and his interesting reminiscences of our earlier Greenock times. The one guinea notes of the Greenock Bank already referred to may still be seen in the Watt Museum. To these a rather pathetic interest attaches, as they were found with other valuables on the body of a passenger who had met his doom through the disaster to the "Comet," which was run down off Gourock by the steamer "Ayr" in 1825. During the fifty-eight years of its existence the Greenock Bank was located in four different parts of the town. Its first quarters were in a tenement on the north side of Hamilton Street, on the site of the new Municipal Buildings; it was afterwards removed to Bank Buildings, in West Breast or Lindsay's Lane; in 1820 the Bank vacated its premises in Lindsay's Lane, and established itself in the Assembly Room Buildings, Cathcart Street; and in 1838 it was removed to the New Bank Buildings, 29 Cathcart Street, the present offices of the National Bank of Scotland. The well-known robbery of the Greenock Bank, which was effected by London thieves, and greatly facilitated by the extreme regularity of the Bank's movements, took place from the Assembly Room Buildings on the 9th March, 1828.



From a drawing by E. Downie

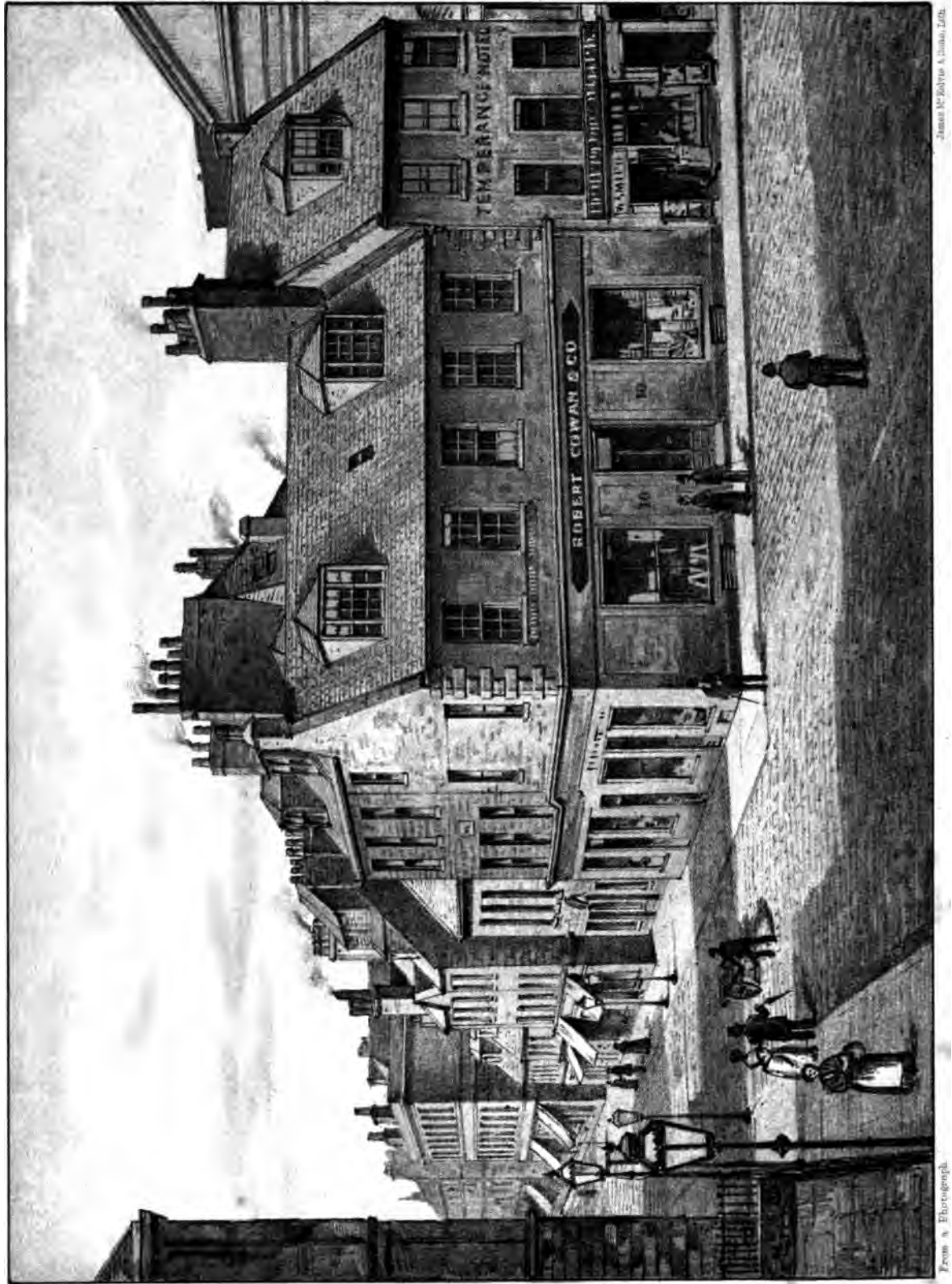
J. & W. N. 1880

LINDSAY'S LANE.

XVI.

Cathcart Square and "Cowan's Corner."

CATHCART SQUARE, so familiar to present-day Greenockians, has been from time immemorial the historical centre of the town. The active and busy generations now no more have often demonstrated within its precincts giving expression of their approval or disapproval of the men and measures of the time. The Fairs of the olden time were exclusively held within its area, and here the showmen of the past harangued the crowd on the cheapness and the excellence of their tinsel wares. Here, twice a year, assembled from the surrounding districts, farmers and their wives, and agricultural servants, male and female, the former in quest of men and maids, and the latter on the look-out for masters and mistresses, the result being a motly crowd and a curious huckstering as to fees, accompanied by extraordinary scenes of jollity and mirth. It is worthy of note that Greenock, which had taken a prominent part in the agitation leading up to the Reform Act of 1832, held an imposing demonstration on the passing of the Bill, one incident of which was the burning of a ship's boat in Cathcart Square. The Mid Parish Church has looked down upon the Square for 129 years, it having been first opened for public worship in 1761, the congregation of the Mid Parish previously meeting in the Royal Closs Loft. The buildings forming the immediate environment of the Square have been within comparatively recent years the subjects of considerable change. What is known as Forrest's Land still remains intact and rises majestically on the north side, it being now occupied as the emporium of the enterprising Messrs. Rowan. But we miss the Temperance Hotel, once known as Mann's, and subsequently as Buchanan's, immediately adjoining Cowan's Corner. On ceasing to be occupied as a hotel, it was for some time utilised as the offices of the Water Trust and the Sanitary Department. The building forming the north-west corner of Hamilton Street and Cathcart Square, occupied by Messrs. Robert Cowan & Co., is now also looked for in vain. The removed structures have all perished under the operations of the Improvement Trust. In the premises which have now acquired the historical designation of "Cowan's Corner," Messrs. Robert Cowan & Co. carried on an extensive drapery business; and the popularity of the firm is worth recording. Its reputation for substantial goods, integrity of business dealing, and courtesy to customers, rich and poor alike, was such that it attracted not only the town's people, but country folks from far and near. The original plans of the Municipal Buildings covered the site of the Messrs. Cowan's premises, and, on the understanding that it was to be also utilised, the firm had to remove; and now carry on their business at the north corner of West Blackhall and West Burn Streets. The historical Coffee Room, one of the most interesting features of Cathcart Square, is still with us, but it is not likely to have a much longer lease, as it is marked out for absorption in the contemplated extension of the premises of the British Linen Banking Company.



CATHCART SQUARE
(SHOWING COWAN'S CORNER) AND HAMILTON STREET.

James McArthur & Son, Ltd.

From a Photograph.



From a Photograph



From a Photograph

THE OLD TOWN OFFICES.

XVIII.

Taylor's Close,

WEST SIDE, FROM HAMILTON STREET.

THE view herewith recalls scenes and sights that were familiar previous to the construction of the magnificent pile known as the Municipal Buildings, and the formation of Wallace Square. Whatever worthy memories may have clustered round the original history of Taylor's Close, there is no doubt that in its later stages its features and associations were not of the loveliest. There is, in connection with the earlier history of the Close, a rather notable incident, and from the names of persons that figure in the story it will be seen that the time of its occurrence is still a long way on this side of antiquity. A workman named Scott, who lived in Taylor's Close, was suspected to have broken the law, and a sergeant of police, with the view of arresting him, forced his dwelling without a warrant. Scott, whatever he may have been in other respects, was not without intelligence, and he thereupon requested the officer to produce his warrant of arrest. The only response vouchsafed to Scott by the sergeant was that "*his warrant was the buckle of his hat.*" This was too much for the intended police victim, who, rushing upon his would-be apprehender with a poker, committed a serious assault. For this Scott was brought to trial in Greenock before Sheriff Hercules Robertson, the case, from its nature, attracting a vast amount of interest. The public sympathy was with Scott, who was acquitted; and the case was rendered memorable by the famous deliverance of the Sheriff, the keynote of which was, from first to last, that a citizen's home was an absolute asylum; and that, unless when constitutionally entered, a Briton's house must be regarded as his castle. Scott, it may be remarked, was throughout this rather remarkable local trial eloquently defended by the late well-known and able Greenock lawyer, Mr. James Dunlop.

Sept 11

XX.

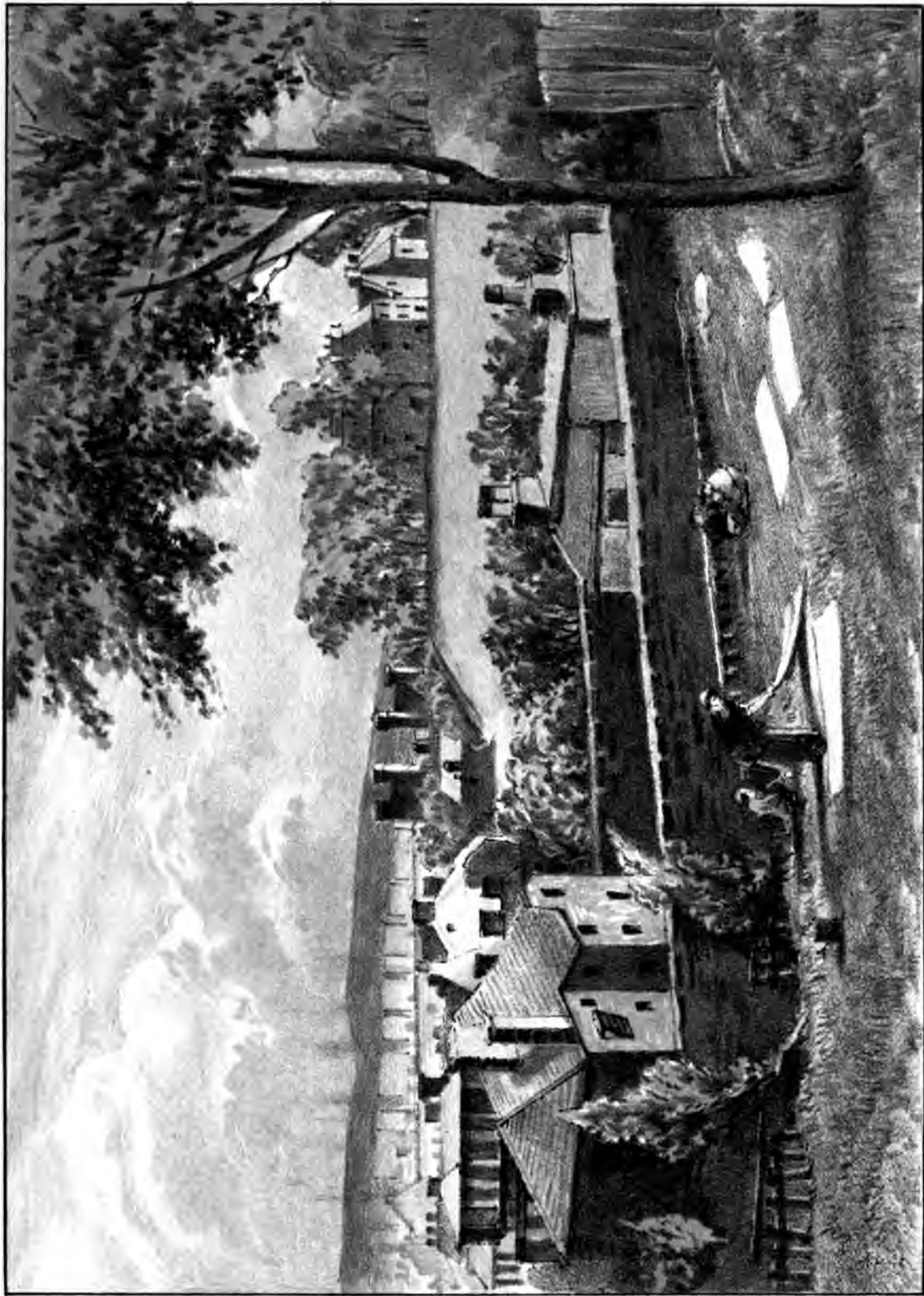
The Low Vennel.

THE accompanying sketch furnishes a view of what once constituted the LOW VENNEL, with a prospect opening on the harbour. This district of the town—at one time a centre of dilapidated tenements and old rookeries—has in recent years undergone quite a transformation. The transformation is the more marked on the east side, which has been completely demolished. The space is now occupied, from Hamilton Street to what is now Wallace Square, with buildings erected by the Improvement Trust and the New Post Office. The formation of Wallace Square may be said to have given a new lung to this part of the town; and it is to be hoped that in an early future, when more prosperous times shall have replenished the Corporation Exchequer, it may be rendered more beautiful and artistic than at present.

XXI.

The Old Greenock Prison.

THE old Prison, one of Greenock's ancient landmarks, situated in lower Bank Street, and immediately adjoining the Mid Parish Church, was demolished in 1886 to make room for the Caledonian line to Gourock. It was a strongly-built house, and many of the stones were in such an excellent state of preservation that they were used by the Railway Company in the construction of walls and bridges. The old Jail contained two iron cells for the incarceration of refractory or troublesome prisoners, and it is significant to note, as shewing the harsher methods of former times, that in one of these cells there were ring-bolts in the floor with a chain in the wall. Spinning had at one time been the prescribed work of the prisoners, and in removing the old structure the machinery used for this purpose was discovered. There was further disclosed the remains of an ingenious automatical contrivance, by means of which the Governor of the Prison could ascertain the amount of work performed by the inmates, and also the precise hour at which they ceased operations. The associations of the Old Greenock Prison are anything but inspiring, but it may be mentioned that in one of the two iron cells referred to there was confined a man named John Kerr, the first criminal ever executed in Greenock for murder. During the progress of removing the old building, workmen came upon the remains of John Boyd, a Greenock man, who had been executed for the murder of his wife in 1835. His body had been interred within the Prison, in terms of the death sentence. As compensation for the old building the Town received from the Caledonian Railway Company the sum of £9,000. The old Prison had been superseded for many years by the superior cell accommodation attached to the new Court-House in Nelson Street. The old jail or Bridewell, as it used to be called, was built in 1810, and in form its appearance resembled an old castle, having two towers in front with battlements at the top.



VIEW FROM SHAW PLACE,
SHOWING OLD JAIL.

From a Drawing by F. Towne

Old Slaughter-House Lane.

THIS view of the SLAUGHTER-HOUSE LANE reminds us of an incident that is not without historical significance. In its immediate vicinity there was situated the original Ragged School of Greenock, taught by Mr. M'Kellar. The institution was afterwards removed to premises almost immediately behind the Tontine ; and it may interest some to know that here that well-known Greenock character who went by the name of "Tag-Rag" received his education. In front of the SLAUGHTER-HOUSE LANE there was a soap and candle work, carried on by Mr. John Ferguson, a well-known Town Councillor and keen local politician. This gentleman was a brother of the Messrs. Ferguson, who, some thirty years ago, were known as sugar refiners in Greenock.



From a Drawing by F. Downie

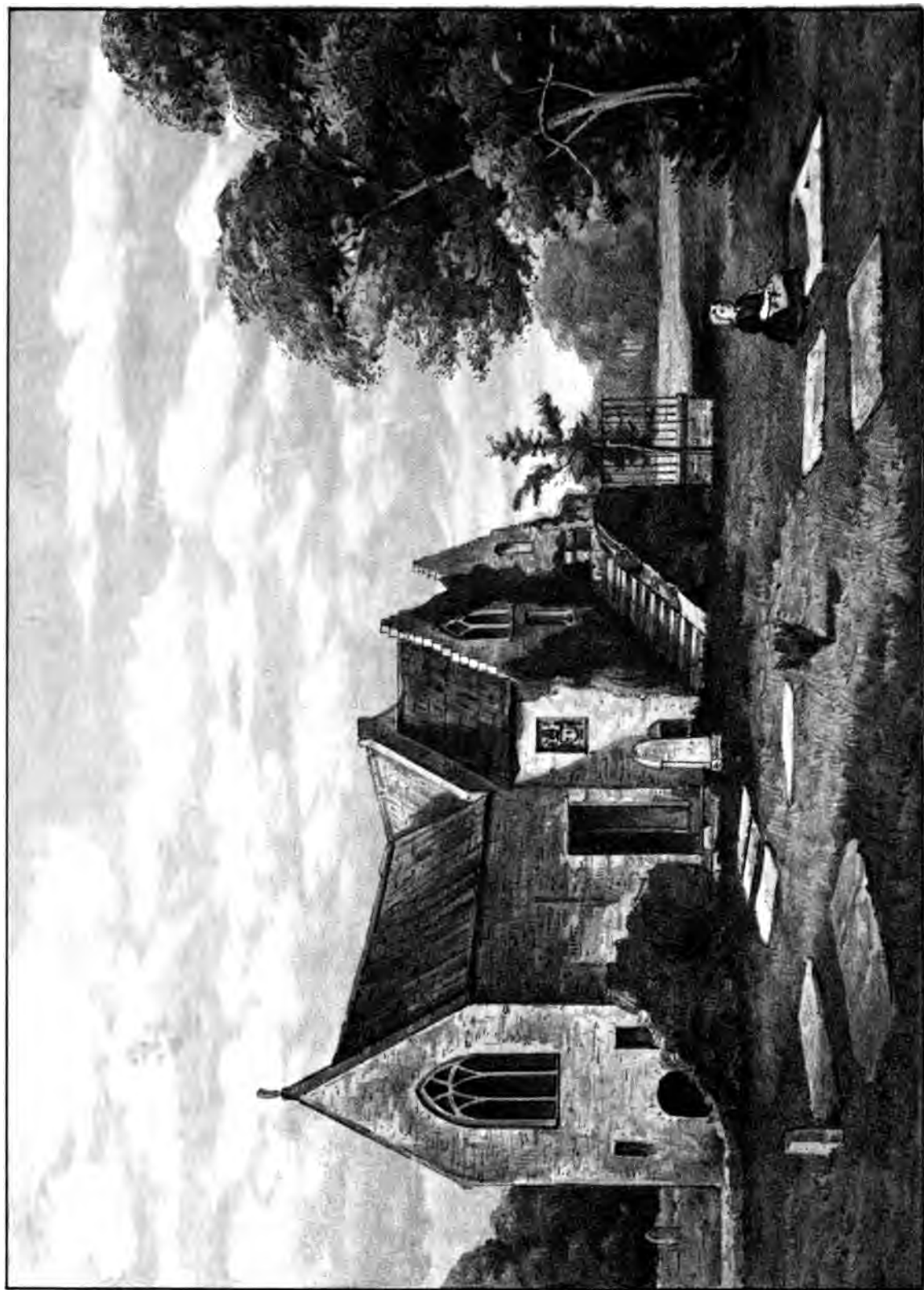
James W. Taylor & Co. Ltd.

OLD SLAUGHTER-HOUSE LANE.

The Old West Kirk.

(PREVIOUS TO RESTORATION.)

THIS picture impels our thoughts in the direction of the very long ago. The venerable structure which it represents came into existence so far back as three centuries; and around it there gathers the earlier ecclesiastical history of Greenock. This is the more easily understood when it is remembered that up till 1741, the year in which the Mid Parish Church was built the OLD WEST KIRK was the one and only place of worship in Greenock and its immediate neighbourhood. In the course of early excavations in different parts of the town there have been evidences of previous chapels that had perished, and of adjoining graveyards that had fallen into disuse. These chapels or churches, however, are supposed to have been swept away amidst the general wreck of religious houses at the time of the Reformation. The OLD WEST KIRK was opened in 1591; and previous to that time Greenockians who attended divine ordinances had to travel every Sabbath six weary miles, over bad roads and dangerous rivulets, to the church of Innerkip, or, as it was anciently known, the Parish of Daff. The erection of the WEST KIRK, as represented by the accompanying pictorial sketch, obviated this great inconvenience, enabling the people of the time to worship within their own borders. It was situated (as in its now renovated form) on the east-end of the Glebe and stood in the midst of an extensive burying-ground. It was built nearly in the form of a cross, and had a small belfry on the west side. It is supposed that from the OLD WEST KIRK belfry the sound of a bell first reached the ears of the Greenock people; and up till 1789 it was made to ring out its sweetest chimes on joyful occasions, and its mournful peals when a distinguished citizen was being carried to his long home. In 1829, Weir, the first historian of Greenock, thus describes the provision for accommodating the worshippers in the OLD WEST KIRK, and comments upon its adjoining burying-ground. "It contains a seat for Sir Michael, the lord of the manor, and another for Crawford, of Cartsburn, the proprietor of Cartsdyke. There is also a farmers' gallery; and, on the opposite side, another for seamen, with a ship full-rigged suspended from the roof; the rest is appropriated to general sitters. In wandering through the churchyard, there is but little to attract the eye which is not common to every burying-ground; and Greenock possesses but few illustrious dead over whose graves we would be apt to linger with emotions of regret. Yet here, unnoticed and scarcely known, is now mouldering in silent dust, Highland Mary, the object of Burns' purest and most exalted attachment, and the theme of his finest effusions. Here also the father of the illustrious James Watt reposes in peace. And here you are reminded of that awful calamity, the sinking of the Comet on the 21st of October, 1825, by observing the grave which contains Sir Joseph Radcliffe's servants who perished on that awful occasion." In the second volume of Mr. George Williamson's valuable history of Greenock, there is to be found most interesting and informing sketches of the successive incumbents of the OLD WEST KIRK. There must be still not a few in Greenock who remember the late Dr. Patrick M'Farlan; and it is interesting to note that this eminent ecclesiastic and divine was the last minister of the OLD WEST KIRK. On the death of the Rev. Robert Steele in 1832, Sir Michael Shaw Stewart, the patron, and the father of the present Baronet, with a nice sense of appreciation, offered the presentation to the renowned Dr. Chalmers. The great Scotsman saw fit to decline the honour, but warmly recommended his friend, Dr. M'Farlan, and he was appointed to the vacant charge. During the incumbency of Dr. M'Farlan the WEST KIRK was found to be in a most dilapidated condition, and no wonder, for it had then borne the tear and wear of two and a half centuries. In 1838, it was condemned as unfit for occupancy, and, consequent on its abandonment, a new church was declared necessary. The result was the erection of the handsome new structure in Nelson Street, a consummation that was largely brought about through the influence and instrumentality of Dr. M'Farlan. To the West Parish congregation Dr. M'Farlan ministered with great acceptance until 1843, the date of the memorable Disruption, when he cast in his lot with the Free Church. The result was the erection of the new Free West Church on the site of the present Wesleyan Chapel in Ardgowan Street, of which Dr. M'Farlan became pastor. It will be remembered that his son, the Rev. John M'Farlan, was for very many years the faithful and much-esteemed pastor of the Free Middle Church, now ministered to by the Rev. M. P. Johnstone. In 1864 a movement was set on foot which resulted in the entire renovation of the OLD WEST KIRK. Since then, and in its restored condition, it has had as pastors, in succession, Rev. Dr. Rankine, now of Muthill, the Rev. Charles Strong, the Rev. W. W. Tulloch, and at present the Rev. A. E. Shand. Quite a succession of generations have come and gone, with their chequered lives of joy and sorrow, during the three centuries that have elapsed since the erection of the OLD WEST KIRK, and while in its happy restoration we recognise the blending of the new and the beautiful with a fitting and becoming reverence for the old, we are alive to the eloquent lesson of its founders, that the consolations of religion which were necessary for them are equally so for their descendants.



THE OLD WEST KIRK.

The Origin of the Old West Kirk, Greenock.

The following additional Notes bearing on the earlier Ecclesiastical History of Greenock and Inverkip have kindly been furnished to us by Captain William Orr:—

Innerkip Church is said to have been built in the year 1488, by George Shaw, Abbot of Pasly. In *Crawford's History of the Shire of Renfrew*, we find that in the year 1160, Walter, High Steward of Scotland, built the Monastery of Pasly, which was dedicated to the Blessed Virgin. Gifts of churches were bestowed on the newly-founded abbey; and amongst others we find that of Innerkip, with all its lands and heritages, given by Baldwin, Count of Lanark. Another authority states that Innerkip Church may have existed before the Convent at Paisley, and that it may have been built under an earlier institution, possibly that of St. Blain, which existed in Bute some centuries before, and the church of which, along with other churches, were also gifted to the Abbey of St. Mirren.

At the Reformation the Monks were expelled from *Innerkip Church* (1560), and the new doctrine was established. It was the nearest Church to the village of Greenock, which was then only a row of thatched houses facing the sea (about a mile to the west of the town of Carts-dyke), and the inhabitants had to go to Innerkip to worship.

The historian *Crawford* says (page 125):—"John Shaw, Greenock's ancestor, built the Church of Greenock after the Baronies of Easter and Wester Greenock were desolved from the Paroch of Innerkip, and erected into a distinct Paroch, which is ratified by an Act of Parliament in the year 1592."

The Old West Kirk is supposed to have been the first Protestant Church built in Scotland after the Reformation, and many of the foundation stones were rough boulders taken from the adjacent sea shore. The original cost of the building amounted to the modest sum of £166 13s. 4d. It was first opened for public worship on the 4th October, 1591.

The following clause in the Royal Charter—"to Erect and big one parroche kirk vpoun his awin heretage Bot also to appoynt and designne mans and gaird to the samyn," shews that provision was made for the building of a manse as well as that of a church. The manse was situated to the north of the kirkyard. An addition was made in 1625, which date appears on the skew stone of the north-east crow-stepped gable. The sea was then so close to it that in storms of east wind the salt spray was dashed on the windows. Its strong walls and steep, roofless gables still defy the rude assaults of time and weather, while in the old kitchen, where oft the scanty meal was prepared from a stipend of £40 a year (ill paid), now resound the sturdy blows from the blacksmith's anvil.

In 1798 a new manse was built a little farther from the sea. The stipend was then £96, and six acres of Glebe land.

In 1801 an Act of Parliament was obtained to feu the Glebe.

On the 16th October, 1837, the Kirk was condemned. The emoluments of the Minister were then—

Stipend Tiends (Average Crops of 1833 and 1834),	£286 14 0
Annuity Bond, Town of Greenock,	25 0 0
Feu-duties from Glebe,	406 12 0
	<hr/>
	£718 6 0

The Charter is a long document, and given at full length at page 13 of Weir's "History of Greenock." It begins thus:—

"JAMES Be the grace of god king of Scotts To or collectors and vthers vnder ressaveris of the stentis taxationis subysdis and impositionis ordiner and extraordinar to be rasit and imposit within this realme and all or officeris executors of ony or vther lrez to be direct thairvpoun lieges and subdites quhome it efferis quhais knowlege thir or lrez sall cum gretin WIT YE WS being movit wt the earnest zeill and grite affection or louit Johnne schaw of grenok hes ay had to goddis glorie and propagatioun of the trew religioun," &c.

The attesting clause is thus written:—

"Gevin vnder or privie seill AT halyruidhous the aughtene day of Nouember The yeir of god Jm ve fourscoir nine yeiris And of or Regnne the twentie thrie yeir per signaturam manibus S D N Regis ac cancellarij subscript." This is, perhaps, the only Protestant kirk in Scotland that has been honoured with a Royal Charter, and confirmed in the privileges of the same by a special Act of Parliament.

There is a brass tablet in the Church with an inscription, of which the following is a copy :—

UNDER A CHARTER OF KING JAMES VI.
GIVEN AT HOLYROOD HOUSE, 18 NOVEMBER, 1589.
THIS CHURCH WAS BUILT
BY SIR JOHN SCHAW OF GREENOCK IN 1591.
THESE ARE THE MINISTERS OF THE CHURCH—
ANDRA MURDO, . . . 1591
JOHN LAYNG, . . . 1598
JAMES TAYLOR, . . . 1640
NEIL GILLIES, . . . 1679
ALEXANDER GORDON, . . . 1688
JOHN STERLING, . . . 1694
ANDREW TURNER, . . . 1704
DAVID TURNER, . . . 1721
ALLAN M'AULAY, . . . 1786
ROBERT STEEL, . . . 1792
PATRICK M'FARLANE, . . . 1832
DISUSED IN 1841, AFTER HAVING BEEN FOR 250 YEARS
THE PARISH CHURCH, AND FOR
150 YEARS OF THESE THE ONLY CHURCH IN GREENOCK.
RESTORED AND RE-OPENED ON CHRISTMAS DAY, 1864,
THROUGH THE LIBERALITY OF THE PARISHIONERS.
PRESENTED BY JAMES RANKIN, M.A.,
ORDAINED MINISTER HERE, JULY 21, 1865.

The bell, said to have come from Holland, was taken to the New Parish in 1856 (*Resurgam*) to strike the quarter-hour chimes; but, alas! its faint, sonorous voice has to be supplemented with a more vigorous peal from the big bell. It was called, from its peculiar sound, "Tam-o-Lang, Tam-o-Lang," and was always so spoken of by the inhabitants—it was never referred to as the *bell*. The inscription on it is :—
"1677. R.A.P. FOR THE CHVRCH OF GRINOK." "VIVOS VOCO. MORTUOS PLANGO.
"FULGURA FRANGO." (The marks between R and P resemble three small bells, while the initial letters represent the name of the founder.)

The kirk bell of the olden time had various and peculiar duties to perform, as may be seen from the following excerpt from the Session books of the Kirk, dated 23rd May, 1695 :—"Qlk day after prayr
"the Sess. being met. The overture anent the abuses by sitting at unseasonable times, &c., coming
"under consideration. It's appointed that sitting in and haunting of taverns on Friday and Saturday nights
"be abstained from after nine of the clock, at which time the bell of the Kirk is allowed to be rung to give
"advertisement to all to repair to their own houses except in cases of necessity, and that this may be the
"more effectual the elders are desired to be observant in their respective quarters and report as they
"shall find ground. And public intimation hereof to be made next Sabbath in order to the more due
"observance."

During the old kirk's lifetime it had enlargements at various times. At one of these it was raised four or five feet; and, small as it was, it had seven doors, and four galleries or lofts. That at the east was the Shaw Loft, under which lie John Shaw, who built the kirk, and many of his descendants; amongst them Sir John Shaw, who built the first harbour of Greenock, in 1707. The west was the Carlsburn Loft; the north the Farmers' Loft; and the south the Sailors' Loft, built at their own expense, which is authenticated by the following excerpt of minute of Session :—
"1697. Dec. 9. Qlk day after prayr the Sess. being met, a Petition was presented to them by the
"Masters of Shipps and Salours in this paroch, wherein they desire the Sess. might consent to their
"building ae Loft in the south Ile of the Kirk. The Session considering the same, find it reasonable
"and consent thereto (withal appointing Mr. Kelso and Wm. Rowan to recommend to them the suppleeing
"the poor box belonging to seamen out of their own box :) Providing always this loft be built upon their
"own proper charge, and not off monies already mortified."

There are four silver Communion Cups which belonged to the Kirk (now in the West Parish Church). At a meeting of Session, August 16, 1708, the following entry was made :—"This day was produced a
"discharge by James Luke, goldsmith in Glasgow, of the money paid him by the Treasurer for the
"Communion Cups, which amounts to nineteen pound nineteen sh. two pence sterling."

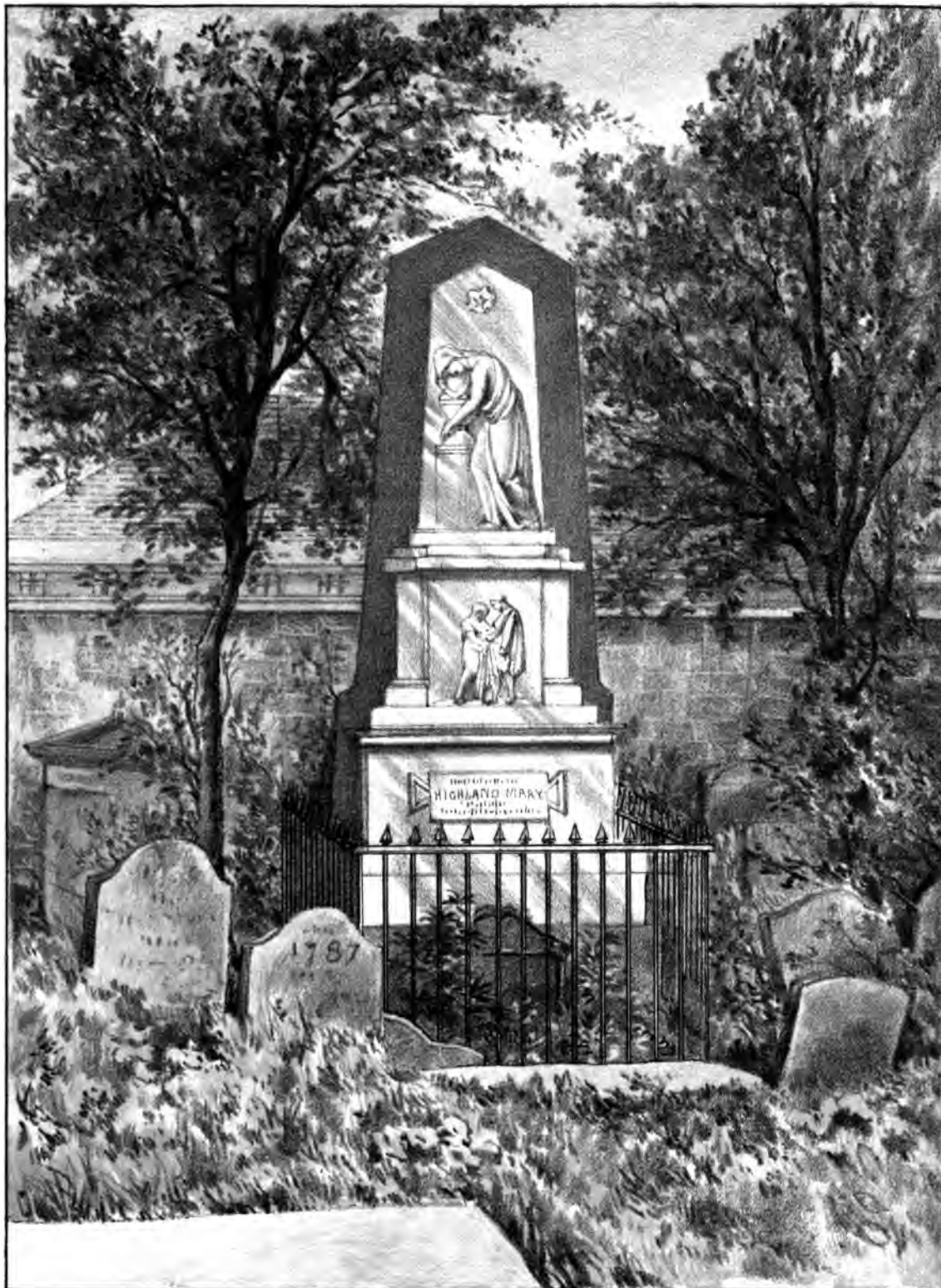
Each cup bears this inscription :—"POCULA EVCHARISTICA ECCLESIAE GRINOCENSIS IMPENSIS
"CONSESSVS ECCLESIASTICI, 1708—Mr. ANDREAS TVRNER, PASTOR."

XXV.

Highland Mary's Grave.

"Oh, Mary ! dear departed shade !
Where is thy place of blissful rest ?"

THERE is but little in Greenock to attract the worshippers of the antique, but there is happily one sacred spot, consecrated to love and genius, that constitutes a shrine. Beneath the place marked by the monument repose the ashes of the Highland girl whose memory evoked the sweetest music from the poetic genius of Burns, and whose tender associations are now imperishably blended with the ever-widening fame of Scotland's Bard. The stone that marks the resting place of Highland Mary stands at the extreme west portion of the old West Kirk Burying Ground. It is now a veritable shrine towards which strangers from all parts of the world wend their way in ever-increasing numbers to pay their devotions. The monument, which owes its existence to public subscription, was erected in 1842. It had been somewhat neglected for years, but it is now under the loving care of the Greenock Burns' Club.



From a Photograph

James H. Kelsey & Sons, Lith.

HIGHLAND MARY'S GRAVE.

Mary Campbell, a native of Dunoon, and at the time in domestic service. A sudden but genuine passion sprang up between them; and no one can read the story of their vows and their final parting on the banks of the Ayr, as related in the bard's immortal poem addressed "To Mary in Heaven," without feeling at once the poignant grief that animated the poet's breast, and the empyrean sweep of his lyric genius. The ever-memorable meeting took place on the 14th August, 1786, and the death of Highland Mary took place on the 20th or 21st of the following October. She was born in 1768, so that at the time of her death she was but eighteen years of age. Her family originally belonged to Dunoon, but subsequently went to Campbeltown, where her father, who had been the master of a sloop, or trading vessel, died and was buried. The family afterwards migrated to Greenock, taking up their residence in the top flat of that house still forming the north-east corner of High Vennel and Sir Michael Street. Mr. Archibald Campbell, of 29 Bank Street, Greenock, a nephew of Highland Mary, is still happily to the fore, and has laid us under obligation by supplying us with valuable and definite information gleaned within the range of his own personal experience. Our courteous and kindly informant, though in his 78th year, is still blessed with a clear and retentive memory, and he can easily recall the early years of his boyhood, some of which were spent with his grandmother (Highland Mary's mother) in Sir Michael Street. He has often heard the story of Highland Mary's death referred to, and his statement thereanent is quite in consonance with what is already well known. The wife of Peter Macpherson, a carpenter residing at 31 Upper Charles Street, was a relative of the Campbells, and Mary's brother coming to Greenock as an apprentice carpenter to Messrs. Scott, shipbuilders, took lodgings at her house. He was seized with fever, which was then rife in the district, and his sister, now known as Highland Mary, came to Greenock in order to nurse him; and in turn was laid down with the disease, which issued in a fatal illness. As to the identification of the precise locality in which the Macphersons lived, there can hardly be any mistake, as the testimony of Highland Mary's surviving nephew, based on personal recollection, is clear and strong. As a boy he was frequently sent by his grandmother in Sir Michael Street to point out to strangers the house of the Macphersons in Charles Street where her celebrated daughter died. Highland Mary's mother, Agnes Campbell, was born in 1742, and died in 1824 at the age of 82 years; her brother Archibald died in 1817, at the age of 41; and another brother, named Robert, better known as "Rab the pirate," passed away in 1821, at the age of 56. Highland Mary's mother and these two brothers were buried in Duncan Street burying-ground. The titles to the lairs in which they are interred are in the possession of Mr. Archibald Campbell, Bank Street, Greenock. As to the woful blank in the literary heritage we have received from Burns, caused by the absence of the poet's letters and verses to Highland Mary, it is a melancholy satisfaction to know that they were destroyed by a member of the Campbell family doubtless under the honest but erroneous impression that disgrace rather than credit was to be gained by connection with the poet. The loss of the correspondence is much to be lamented, but it is well to remember that in our day we are surrounded by a more liberal mental atmosphere, which enables us to realise the greatness of Burns, and our indebtedness to him in a manner impossible to those who lived in the first half of the century. We are now within five years of the centenary of Burns' death, and still his fame rolls on with an ever-increasing momentum. It is safe to say that as his teaching becomes better understood and more assimilated, the cause of human brotherhood will progress and prosper. Let us rejoice as citizens of Greenock that we are closely associated with persons and places that relate us to the gifted singer that gave a new voice to the better impulses of his Scottish countrymen, and an all-time utterance to the higher aspirations of the race. It may be mentioned that the monument in the Old West Kirk burying-ground, which graces and guards the resting-place of Highland Mary, was the successful outcome of a movement initiated by the Greenock Foresters' Society. The monument was unveiled in 1842, and on that occasion there was a Burns demonstration which took the form of a trades procession.

XXVII.

Mince Collop Close,

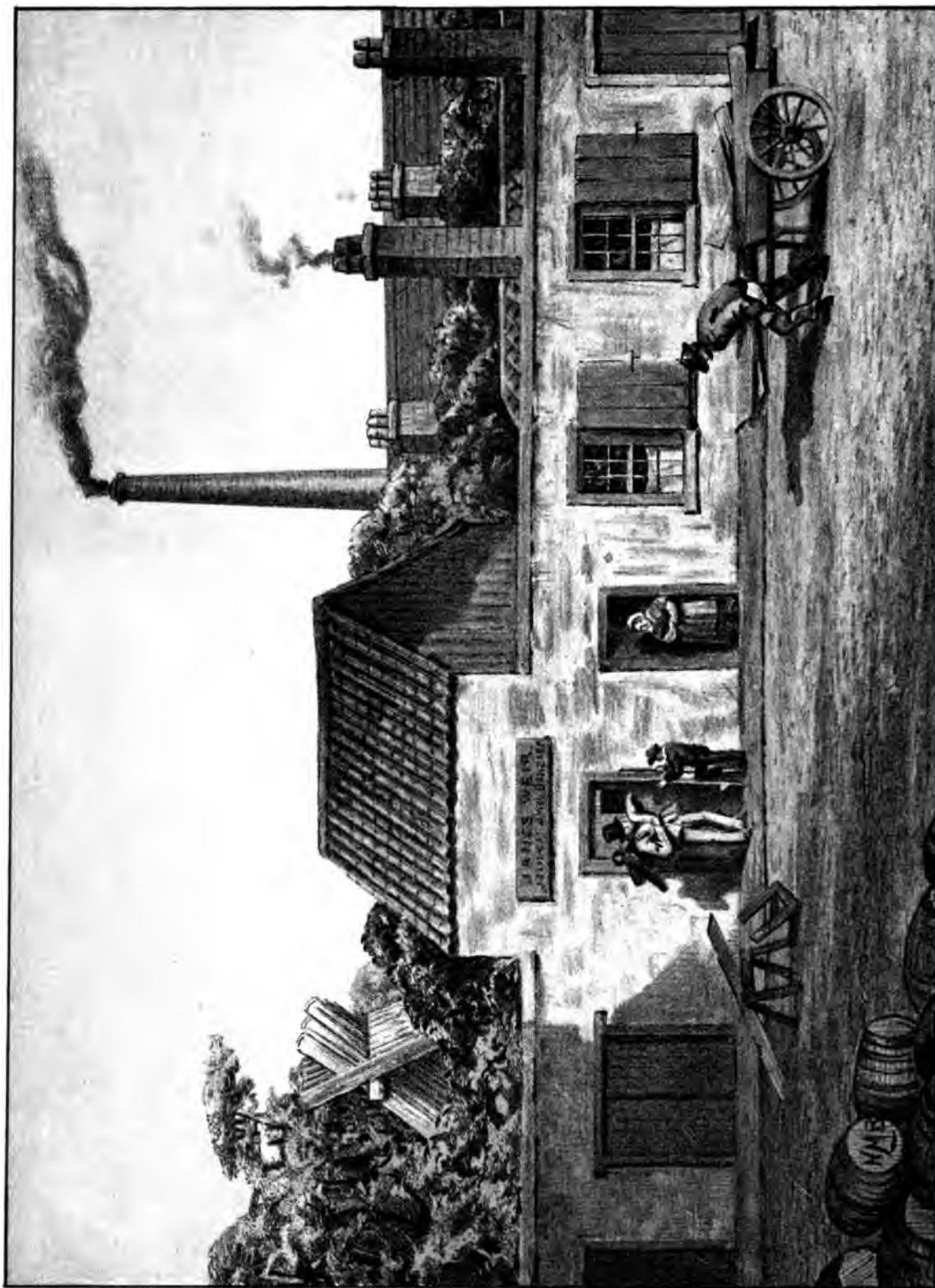
SHOWING HOUSE SUPPOSED TO HAVE BEEN THAT IN WHICH HIGHLAND MARY DIED.

THE accompanying picture gives a view of MINCE COLLOP CLOSE, a lane or *cul-de-sac* now removed. It was situated immediately to the east of William Street, and ran southwards from Shaw Street. It was a disreputable locality, but was rendered not altogether uninteresting on account of the belief that obtained for many years to the effect that it contained the house in which Highland Mary died. The belief, however, was founded on a tradition which later investigation has dispelled. A picture of the actual house where Mary Campbell breathed her last is, with explanatory letterpress, to be found at number 26 of this volume.

A Bit of West Blackhall Street in 1845.

FROM A PAINTING BY NORMAN MACBETH.

HALF-A-CENTURY divides us from the West Blackhall Street of to-day and that represented by the accompanying illustration. The vista backwards is not too long for some of us to traverse, yet it is more than sufficient to accentuate the transitoriness of life, and the incessant change inseparable from mundane affairs. Elder Greenockians will recollect the house and joiner's workshop of Mr. James Weir, as given in the picture. The premises have been transformed, and are now occupied by Mr. Ivie Scott and others. It is only a few years since Mr. Weir, who was a native of Greenock, passed away, and he is still well and kindly remembered in town. Throughout his long life of fourscore years he exhibited a character whose outstanding features were those of kindness, industry, and individuality. We can see him yet on business bent, as with elastic step he made his way by lane and street, with purpose-looking gait, his joiner's apron tucked to his side, a hammer suspended therefrom, and glass and putty in hand. Mr. James Weir was an enthusiastic collector of old coins and other antiquities. Opposite Mr. Weir's workshop were the extensive sugar stores of Messrs. Gray & Buchanan, forming the north-west corner of Argyll Street and West Blackhall Street. It may be remembered that the hogsheads and other sugar packages were hoisted into the lofts by means of horse haulage, and, in order to reach the higher portions of the warehouse, it was necessary for the horses to entirely cross the street. This system of hoistage was common in other parts of the town, but latterly became intolerable in busy thoroughfares, such as West Blackhall Street. The obnoxious practice has been superseded by the adoption of excellent hydraulic hoists, now in almost universal use. Some twenty years ago Messrs. Gray & Buchanan disposed of their West Blackhall Street warehouse to Mr. Thomas Suttie, then of Greenock, but now of Auckland, who had it converted into a fine block of shops and offices. It is worthy of note that Mr. John Gray, the senior partner of the firm of Gray & Roxburgh, was a gentleman of exquisite taste, and that, as a member of Council, to him belongs the honour of having designed the walks in our beautiful Greenock Cemetery, the acquisition of which was mainly due to his far-seeing initiative. His son, Mr. Hugh Gray, is now living at Helensburgh.



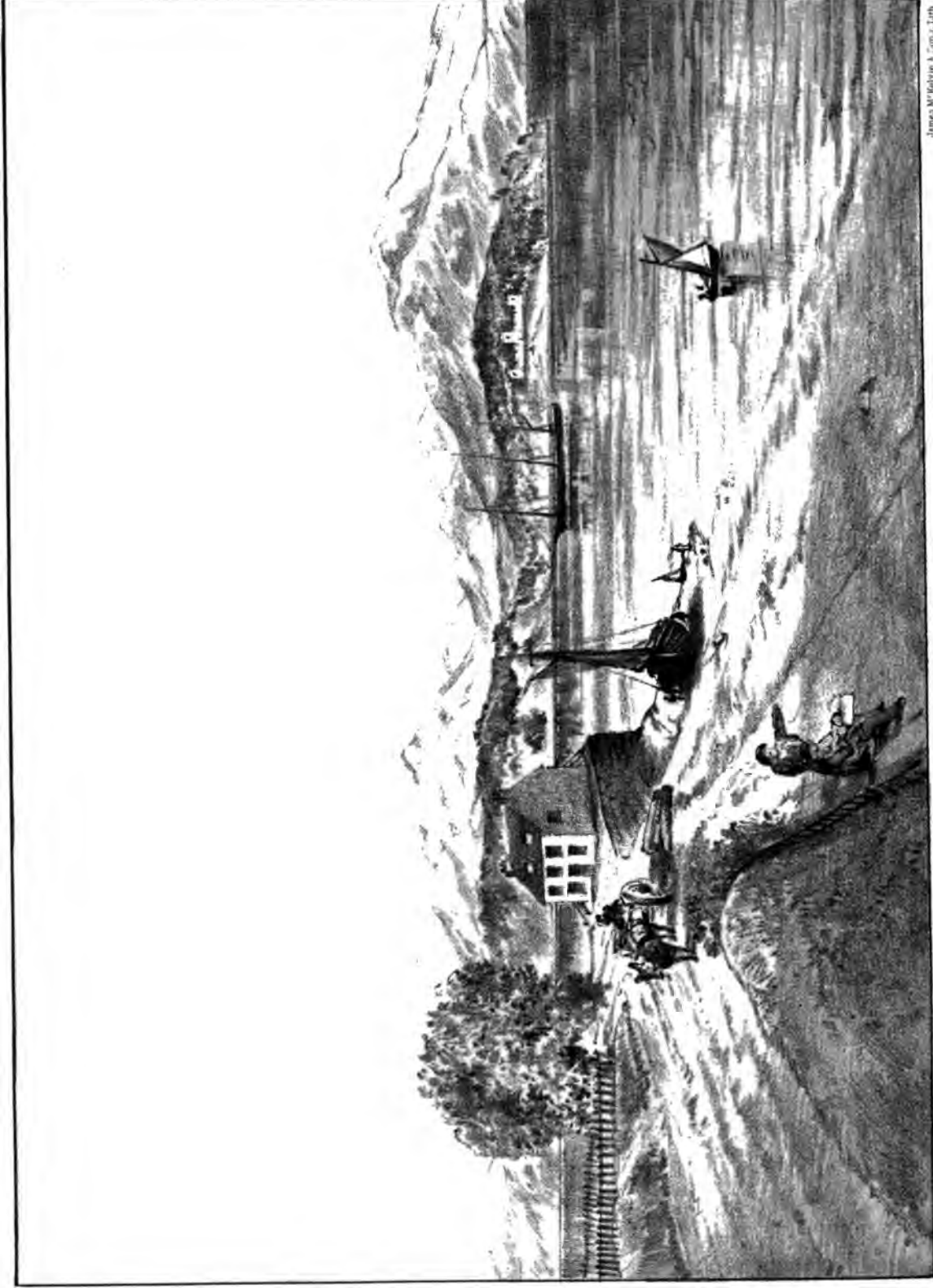
James Watson & Co. Glasgow, 1845

A BIT OF WEST BLACKHALL STREET IN 1845;
FROM A PAINTING BY NORMAN MACBETH.

The Old Ferry-House and Bay of Quick.

HERE is perhaps none of the sketches of old Greenock embodied in this memorial volume so thoroughly suggestive of change as that before us. Every Greenockian of the present generation is familiar with the terminus of the Glasgow & South-Western Railway and the fine outlet to the river known as Princes Pier; but the citizen who to-day would revisit his native town after an absence of a quarter of a century might experience a chilling sensation through failing to recognise his once well-known and much-frequented Bay of Quick. The form and spirit of the place are new, nought remaining save the natural contour of the river and the beautiful prospect opening out therefrom. The old Ferry-House, which is now only within the recollection of the few, was built close to the beach, and its appearance in the accompanying illustration suggests striking comparisons with the numerous facilities by which the traveller of to-day can now transport himself from place to place. In the pre-steamboat days the ferry was the mode of fording loch and river. That stationed at Bay of Quick was used to convey people to and from Rosneath and other parts of the Clyde. Previous to the acquisition of the Bay of Quick site for railway purposes, it was mainly occupied as a saw mill and a shipbuilding yard. The mill was owned by Mr. John Brown, a gentleman who subsequently acted as editor of the *Greenock Herald*; while the shipbuilding yard was the property of the late well-known and esteemed local shipbuilder, Mr. James M'Millan. It is worthy of note in this connection, that some of the earlier vessels belonging to the extensive fleet of Messrs. John Kerr & Co. were built in the Bay of Quick yard. Previous to occupying his premises there, Mr. M'Millan had carried on shipbuilding in Cartdyke, in the yard lately possessed by Messrs. Robert Steele & Co., and now the property of Messrs. Scott & Co. The yard here referred to was sold by Mr. M'Millan to Mr. Robert Steele, of Messrs. Steele & Co., for £10,000. On parting with his premises in Cartdyke, Mr. M'Millan removed to the west of Albert Harbour, in proximity to Patrick Street, and established a shipbuilding yard on ground fronting Clyde Street belonging to the Greenock Harbour Trust. He remained a tenant of the Harbour Trust till 1854, when he acquired from Sir M. R. Shaw Stewart, Bart., the shore ground north of Clyde Street with the land lying between Clyde and Brougham Streets. The shore ground towards the river had to be filled up, a process which extended over many years, and was carried out at considerable cost. When Mr. M'Millan had been about eleven years at the Bay of Quick his whole ground and buildings were scheduled under an Act of Parliament, obtained by the Greenock and Ayrshire Railway Company, for railway necessities. The jury trials in connection with the purchase of the Bay of Quick properties are still fresh in the minds of the trading public. The mill premises had, a few years before, been disposed of by Mr. Brown to Messrs. Allison & Crawford, of Greenock and Paisley, for £8,000; whereas the railway company, before obtaining possession, had to pay £24,000 to Mr. Alexander Crawford for the saw mill and business compensation. Mr. James M'Millan was awarded £27,000, with interest thereon, as compensation for his shipbuilding yard. The whole cost of the jury trials, which was very considerable, had to be borne by the railway company. It will be remembered that the shipbuilding yard was situated to the west of the saw mill, and that immediately adjoining was the house known as Bay of Quick Cottage, owned and occupied by Mr. M'Millan. Mr. James M'Millan, who was a native of Greenock, died in 1878. Two sons, James and Peter, passed away in early manhood; his daughter Catherine (now deceased) was the wife of our esteemed townsman, Mr. D. D. Adamson, shipowner, of Messrs. J. & W. Stewart; and his other and only surviving daughter, Anne, is the wife of Mr. John Douglas, of Messrs. Mackenzie & Walker, Shaws Water Grain Mills, Greenock.

Any notice of the Bay of Quick that failed to recognise the services of Mr. James Johnston Grieve, ex-Provost of, and ex-M.P. for, Greenock, would be to the last degree defective. Mr. Grieve's name is not only indissolubly associated with this quarter of the town, but with the port as a whole. He was one of the leading promoters of the Greenock and Ayrshire Railway; and worthy monuments to his insight, his patriotism, and his enterprise, are to be found in the Esplanade, the Albert and Victoria Harbours, our Gryfe water supplies, and in other schemes for developing the resources of the town. Mr. Grieve could see adown the avenue of the future, and has virtually ploughed himself into the history of Greenock. He retired from the Parliamentary representation of the town in 1878, and now lives in Edinburgh.



James McHenry & Co. Lith.

THE OLD FERRY HOUSE AND BAY OF QUICK ;

From a Sketch made in 1840 by Miss Ann Morait.

The Old Highlanders' Academy.

THIS popular educational institution, situated in the west-end of Roxburgh Street, was compelled by the exigencies of the Gourock Railway to change its quarters; and the old buildings, which had been in existence for fifty years, were taken down in 1887. The Highlanders' Academy, originally intended for the education of the children of the poorer Highlanders in the community, was built by voluntary effort, and was the result of a movement that took place in 1834. In that year it was suggested by some members of the Gaelic Chapel that the use of the Gaelic language in the forenoon service should be dispensed with; and the Greenock Highlanders, naturally resenting the innovation, took steps for the better securing alike of church and school accommodation in accordance with their own traditions and desires. In order to effect this purpose, a society was formed; and ultimately—the idea of providing church accommodation being discarded—the attention of the society was concentrated on the erection and endowment of a school for the children of Highlanders in Greenock and vicinity. It was ascertained at that time that there were 2,000 adult Highlanders in Greenock, and that 300 of their children required to be sent to school. It was subsequently resolved that a day school should be built, providing accommodation for 400 infants and juveniles. It is due to the Ardgowan family to state that the site of the Highlanders' Academy, which contained about 100 falls, was given at the lowest rate permitted by the Deed of Entail, and that a grassum of nearly £700, which formed part of the Directors' obligations, was handsomely returned by the present Lord of the Manor on succeeding to his father's Estate. The foundation-stone was laid on the 31st of August, 1835, and the Highlanders' Academy was opened in the following year. In 1842, an additional storey was added to a part of the original structure, in order to provide a commercial department. The total cost of the buildings was £2,625. The Academy, though originally denominational in character and constitution, became, after a few years, thoroughly liberalised, and though the original name was retained, it was open to children of all classes of parents, who largely availed themselves of its excellent educational advantages. The moving spirit in the erection of the Highlanders' Academy was Mr. Daniel M'Arthur, who died in 1850. The records of the Directors shew what splendid services had been rendered to the Institution by this gentleman. In minuting their expressions of regret at his irreparable loss, they state that the Institution "owed its existence principally to his exertions and his unceasing labours and indomitable energy in bringing it through all the difficulties it had met with." A second additional enlargement was made on the Academy buildings in 1875, which greatly improved their appearance, and provided greater comfort alike for teachers and pupils. In 1881 the school was taken over by the Greenock School Board, and the old associations that clustered round it have been transferred to the handsome new structure in Mount Pleasant Street, which perpetuates the name and associations of the old Highlanders' Academy. There are numerous persons in and beyond the town whose memories lovingly linger round the old building, whose boyish and girlish days were spent in its well-remembered class rooms and its familiar playground; and by many of these an affectionate regret was expressed at its demolition. It has now, however, to be classed with old Greenock, as of its material part nought remains but the faithful picture now before us.

Crow Mount.

THIS picture is interesting as taking us back some fifty years in the history of Greenock. Crow Mount, or, as it was commonly called, the Mount, formed that portion of the town stretching westwards from Bank Street to Ann Street, and running northwards from Dempster Street to Roxburgh Street. At the time referred to it was largely a plantation with a few gardens, and here and there a cottage or residence of some well-known citizen. The district represented by the Mount is now covered with dwellings, but fifty years ago it was, for the most part, unfeued. Crow Mount was, in its way, a miniature forest, with trees of luxuriant growth, which attracted crows, and made it a breeding place and a centre for this well-known species of bird, the chorus of whose peculiar cawing became a familiar feature of the neighbourhood, and doubtless gave the Mount its name. The pictorial sketch herewith is in striking contrast to the transformation which exists to-day, and is significantly suggestive as to how Greenock in her later years has outgrown her original boundaries and extended herself into the country. Among a few well-known citizens who had their homes on or about the Mount may be mentioned the late Mr. William Gaff, joiner; Mr. Hugh Dempster, writer; Mr. Robert Buchanan, cooper; Captain Robert Cuthbert; and the present Mr. Alexander Ranken Johnston. At the junction of Holmscroft and Trafalgar Streets, on what was the central portion of Crow Mount, now stands Mount Park Free Church, which owes its name to the locality. This church, of which the Rev. A. D. Grant is pastor, was opened in 1874.

XXXII.

Castle of Easter Greenock.

THIS view gives a representation of Easter Castle as in ruins at the end of last century. It was situated about half-a-mile to the south of Cartsdyke, and was for centuries the Mansion-House of Easter Greenock. The old castle, with estates of Eastern Greenock, were re-united with the ancient Barony of Greenock in 1669, after a prolonged separation, during which they were in possession of the Crawfurds, of Kilbirny.



CASTLE OF EASTER GREENOCK.

Historical Memoranda.

THE FOLLOWING IS A CHRONICLE OF NOTABLE LOCAL EVENTS:—

	Year.
Greenock Constituted a Burgh of Barony, - - - - -	1635
James Watt Born, - - - - -	1736
Election of First Magistrates and Council, - - - - -	1751
Greenock Library Instituted, - - - - -	1783
First Issue of "Greenock Advertiser," - - - - -	1802
East India Harbour—Foundation-stone Laid, - - - - -	1805
Greenock Infirmary Opened, - - - - -	1809
Greenock Chamber of Commerce Incorporated, - - - - -	1813
Sheriff Court Opened, - - - - -	1815
Flood at Carlsdyke, - - - - -	1815
Greenock Provident Bank Opened, - - - - -	1815
James Watt Died, - - - - -	1819
Greenock Coffee Room Opened, - - - - -	1821
Shaws Water Introduced, - - - - -	1827
First Gaswork Erected, - - - - -	1829
Flood at Carlsdyke, - - - - -	1835
Mechanics' Institute—Foundation-stone Laid, - - - - -	1839
Glasgow, Paisley, and Greenock Railway Opened, - - - - -	1841
Greenock Cemetery Opened, - - - - -	1846
Victoria Harbour Opened, - - - - -	1850
The Mariners' Asylum (Sir Gabriel Wood's)—Foundation-stone Laid, - - - - -	1850
First Issue of "Greenock Herald," - - - - -	1852
House of Refuge Opened, - - - - -	1853
The Wood Asylum Opened, - - - - -	1854
Greenock Academy Opened, - - - - -	1855
"Greenock Telegraph" Newspaper Established, - - - - -	1857
Greenock Ragged School (Captain Street) Opened, - - - - -	1858
Greenock Philosophical Society Instituted, - - - - -	1861
Albert Harbour—Foundation-stone Laid, - - - - -	1862
First Daily Issue of "Greenock Telegraph" (The first Half-penny Evening Journal published in Great Britain or Ireland), - - - - -	1863
Wemyss Bay Railway Opened, - - - - -	1865
Albert Harbour Opened, - - - - -	1867
New Court House Opened, - - - - -	1869
Greenock and Ayrshire Railway Opened, - - - - -	1869
Buchanan Night Asylum Opened, - - - - -	1870
Garvel Graving Dock—Foundation-stone Laid, - - - - -	1871
Gryffe Water Introduced, - - - - -	1872
Inchgreen Gasworks Opened, - - - - -	1873
Tramway to Gourock Opened, - - - - -	1873
First School Board Elected, - - - - -	1873
Watt Museum—Foundation-stone Laid, - - - - -	1875
Watt Museum Opened (Built and Endowed by Mr. James M'Lean), - - - - -	1876
Smithston Poorhouse and Asylum—Foundation-stone Laid, - - - - -	1876
Smithston Poorhouse and Asylum Opened, - - - - -	1879
Lyle Road Opened, - - - - -	1880
Ferguson Eye Infirmary Opened, - - - - -	1880
James Watt Dock—Foundation-stone Laid, - - - - -	1881
Municipal Buildings—Foundation-stone Laid, - - - - -	1881
James Watt Dock Opened, - - - - -	1886
Railway to Gourock Opened, - - - - -	1889

LIST OF MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT FOR GREENOCK, AND CANDIDATES, FROM
1832 TO 1886: with Number of the Constituency at time of Election; also Numbers
Polled.

[By the Reform Act of 1832 Greenock was made a Parliamentary Burgh, with right to return
one Member to Parliament.]

1832—Constituency, 985.		
Robert Wallace of Kelly,	.	493
John Fairrie, Greenock,	.	262
1835—Constituency, 1057.		
Robert Wallace,	Unopposed.	
1837—Constituency, 1158.		
Robert Wallace,	.	401
James Smith of Jordanhill,	.	202
1841—Constituency, 1168.		
Robert Wallace,	.	406
Sir Thomas John Cochrane,	.	309
* 1845—Constituency, 962.		
Walter Baine, Merchant, Greenock,	.	350
Alex. Murray Dunlop, Advocate,	.	344
1847—Constituency, 1094.		
Viscount Melgund,	.	456
Alex. Murray Dunlop,	.	315
1852—Constituency, 1164.		
Alex. Murray Dunlop,	.	470
Sir James Elphinstone,	.	254
1857—Constituency, 1405.		
Alex. Murray Dunlop,	Unopposed.	
1859—Constituency, 1524.		
Alex. Murray Dunlop,	Unopposed.	
1865—Constituency, 1763.		
Alex. Murray Dunlop,	Unopposed.	
1868—Constituency, 6223.		
James Johnston Grieve, Merchant,	.	2962
W. D. Christie, London,	.	2092
1874—Constituency, 6330.		
James Johnston Grieve,	Unopposed.	
* 1878—Constituency, 7593.		
James Stewart, Merchant,	.	2183
Sir James Fergusson,	.	2124
Donald Currie, Shipowner,	.	1648
W. D. Scott-Moncrieff,	.	108
1880—Constituency, 7281.		
James Stewart,	.	3351
John Scott of Hawkhill,	.	2161
* 1884—Constituency, 7509.		
Thomas Sutherland, London,	.	3548
John Scott, Greenock,	.	2417
1885—Constituency, 7131.		
Thomas Sutherland,	.	3057
John Scott,	.	2954
J. Morrison Davidson, London,	.	65
1886—Constituency, 7131.		
Thomas Sutherland,	.	2905
Harold Wright, London,	.	2208

* Bye Elections.

LIST OF PROVOSTS OF GREENOCK.

The Provosts Elected since the passing of the Municipal Reform Act, in 1832, are as follow :—

Robert Baine,	14th Nov., 1833
James Watt,	7th Nov., 1834
William Macfie,	6th Nov., 1835
†James Stewart,	10th Nov., 1837
Adam M'Leish,	28th Nov., 1837
†James Scott,	14th Nov., 1838
Adam Fairrie,	1st April, 1839
*Walter Baine,	6th Nov., 1840
Adam Fairrie,	8th Nov., 1844
*James J. Grieve,	6th Nov., 1846
†Samuel Paterson,	1st May, 1849
†John Martin,	15th Mar., 1852
T. O. Hunter,	14th Aug., 1855
James Duff,	5th Nov., 1858
*James J. Grieve,	9th Nov., 1860
James Morton,	4th Dec., 1868
*Robert Neill,	10th Nov., 1871
Abram Lyle,	10th Nov., 1876
D. Campbell,	7th Nov., 1879
Edward Wilson,	10th Nov., 1882
*†Robert Shankland,	6th Nov., 1885
Walter W. B. Rodger,	8th Nov., 1889

* Have held office for longer than the statutory period of 3 years. † Died while in office.

[The Lists of Provosts and Members of Parliament are taken from the Municipal Year Book, 1891.]

Publishers' Note.

Letterpress of Picture No. 11. At fifteenth line read *first* volume.

„ „ No. 17. Mr. John Kerr Gray died 16th March, 1891.

„ „ No. 24. Referring to date in fourth line, the New or Mid Parish was formally constituted and disjoined from the old in 1741; but previous to that the nucleus of the new congregation had worshipped in the Royal Closs loft, and continued to do so until 1761, when the new church was ready for occupancy.

JAMES M'KELVIE & SONS,
LITHOGRAPHERS AND BOOKBINDERS, GREENOCK.

